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18 September 1985

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REGIONAL AFFAIRS

OBJECTIVES OF ISRAEL BOYCOTT BUREAU DISCUSSED

Riyadh AL-YAMAMAH in Arabic 24 Jul 85 pp 30-31

[Interview with Commissioner General of the Israel Boycott Bureau Dr Nurallah Nurallah, by Khalil al-Taqqi: "We Will Pursue Anyone Who Participates In the Dead Sea Canal Project;" date and place not specified]

[Text] In a lengthy interview with AL-YAMAMAH, Commissioner General of the Israel Boycott Bureau Dr Nurallah Nurallah said that every measure has been taken to impose a complete boycott, by campaigning against any company, organization or individual proven to have taken part in any way in supporting and implementing the Israeli project to dig a canal between the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea. Dr Nurallah Nurallah added that the Arab boycott of the Zionist entity has gone through two stages. In the first stage, the basic goal of the boycott was to eliminate Zionist industry in Palestine, so that it would not be strong enough to achieve the Zionist political goal of establishing a state on Arab territory.

In 1945, on the basis of these considerations, the Arab League decreed that Jewish products and industries in Palestine were undesirable in Arab countries, and that the Arab states must prevent these products and manufactured goods from entering their countries, using any means which they feel would guarantee that. It called on the Arab people to work together with the Arab governments in this regard.

In the second stage, which began with the establishment of "Israel" in 1948, the Arab states felt that the boycott rulings then in effect were not suited to the new phase and its dangers, and must be re-examined and re-organized on newer, more effective bases more capable of cordoning off the Zionist entity and pursuing its economy at home and abroad.

[Question] What are the main concerns of the Israel Boycott Bureau, and what are the goals of the boycott?

[Answer] The main boycott bureau, in cooperation with the regional Israel boycott bureaus, are concerned first of all with wrecking the Israeli

strategic goal of controlling the economies of the Arab world and undermining and exhausting their foundations, and, secondly, with pursuing the Israeli economy within the occupied Arab territories and placing obstacles in the way of its growth and development.

In this area in particular, the Arab boycott agencies have worked to oppose the influx of foreign capital and expertise into the Zionist entity. The boycott agencies have forced many foreign companies and organizations to take no steps to support the Israeli economy and its development, such as establishing investment projects in "Israel" or selling the Zionist entity factories which would help strengthen its economy, and to suspend all their existing projects in "Israel" or withdraw from them, under penalty of being blacklisted and prohibited from doing business in Arab countries. The boycott agencies have also worked to restrict the development of economic and commercial relations between these countries and "Israel," and to strengthen political and economic ties between these countries and the Arab countries, so that Arab exports can compete with similar Israeli exports and replace them spontaneously and naturally.

[Question] What effect do you think the Arab boycott has had on the Israeli economy?

[Answer] Without a doubt, the Israelis are deeply aware of the significance and influence of the Arab boycott, and the material and moral losses it has inflicted on the Israeli economy. For that reason, they have established a special agency to counter Arab boycott measures and rulings. Also for that reason, Israeli propaganda campaigns have concentrated, and still do from time to time, on the Arab boycott, in desperate attempts to cast doubts on its significance and belittle its usefulness and effectiveness. To achieve this very goal, Zionism has made constant attempts to influence the policies of some countries, especially the United States, in order to get them to pass laws against the Arab boycott. If we look back to the treaty which al-Sadat signed with Israel, and to the open, unequivocal provisions in the "Camp David" agreement pertaining to the normalization of relations between the Egyptian regime and the Zionist entity, the Zionist enemy's desire and insistence on opening up the entire Egyptian market to "Israel" becomes very clear to us; Egypt, with all its economic, military and commercial resources, would fall into the hands of world Zionism and Israel, and would be shifted from its natural, effective position as one of the confrontation states to the side of those who would meet face to face with Israel.

[Question] What resolutions have the Arab and Islamic countries adopted to support and confirm what the Israel Boycott Bureau and its various branches are doing to strangle the Zionist entity, and what effect have these resolutions had on the progress of boycotting the enemy?

[Answer] There is no doubt that once passed by the concerned agencies in those countries, the resolutions and recommendations issued by the leaders of Arab and Islamic countries have had a major part in channeling and giving the force of law to the resolutions adopted by the Israel Boycott Bureau.

The eleventh congress of Islamic foreign ministers, held in Islamabad on 17 May 1980, passed resolutions channeling the efforts being made in this direction, as a noteworthy part of the results, recommendations and resolutions of this congress.

The congress called on all Islamic countries to join the Arab boycott against Israel, and to coordinate their efforts in this field with the other countries of the Third World, in order to apply the boycott against all racist regimes, especially in occupied Palestine and South Africa.

The congress requested all Islamic countries to adhere to all the resolutions passed by Islamic summit conferences and Islamic foreign ministers' conferences pertaining to the Palestine issue, and to try to implement them as quickly as possible, especially those pertaining to severing political, economic, cultural, technical, touristic, and communications relations in all their various forms, as well as any other relations with the Zionist entity.

The conferences of waqfs and Islamic affairs ministers, especially the second such conference held in Mecca in March 1981, have passed numerous important resolutions, such as the following:

1. To stand up to Zionism and its supporters, to not cooperate with them, and to not allow them to enter the countries of the Islamic world.
2. To boycott Zionist companies and organizations;
3. To boycott Zionist films and newspapers and those sympathetic to Zionism, to prohibit their circulation in the Islamic world, and to prepare a list of the names of such films, newspapers, magazines, publications, works of art and books and circulate it throughout the Islamic world;
4. To look after young Muslims in the West and protect them from falling under Zionist control; and
5. To create a strong information network to refute Zionist lies using well-known information methods.

Islamic summit conferences, especially the one held in al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia in January 1981, have passed resolutions and recommendations pertaining to boycott matters, such as the unanimous condemnation of the racist Zionist entity in occupied Palestine. The most outstanding resolutions pertain to "Israel's" proclamation of Jerusalem as its capital, and similar issues.

The Islamic countries are committed to using all their resources to fight the Israeli decision to annex Jerusalem and proclaim it the capital of the Zionist entity, and have resolved to apply a political and economic boycott against any country which acknowledges this Israeli decision, helps implement it, or establishes its embassy in Noble Jerusalem.

[Question] Throughout the course of the Arab boycott of the Zionist entity ever since 1948, what stages have these measures leading to the blockade of the Zionist enemy passed through?

[Answer] The Arab boycott of the Zionist entity has passed through two stages, each of which differs in its goals and methods according to the different circumstances of each stage.

In the first stage, the basic goal of the boycott was to eliminate Zionist industry in occupied Palestine, so that Zionism would not be strong enough to achieve its political goal of establishing a state on Arab territory. In 1945, on the basis of these considerations, the Arab League resolved that Jewish products and goods manufactured in Palestine were not wanted in Arab countries, and that these countries should prohibit those goods from entering their territory by any means which they felt would guarantee that. The league called on the Arab peoples to work together with the Arab governments in this field.

In the second stage, which began after the establishment of the Zionist entity in 1948, the Arab countries felt that the boycott rulings then in effect were not suited to the new phase and its dangers, and must be re-examined and re-organized along newer, more effective bases more capable of cordoning off "Israel" and pursuing its economy both at home and abroad. In order to attain this goal, the Arab League assembly decreed a number of provisions in May 1951 including the following.

A head office would be set up for the boycott, to be headed by a commissioner general appointed by the secretary general of the Arab League.

The function of the commissioner general, who would be assisted by a deputy in each Arab country, would be that of a liaison officer ensuring contacts among the regional boycott bureaus in each country, coordinating their measures and activities, and ensuring the continuity of their action.

The commissioner general would call the liaison officers to meetings chaired by himself whenever circumstances so required.

Each country would set up a bureau concerned with boycott affairs as a whole, which would be sufficiently staffed and provided with the necessary means to enable it to carry out its duties in general.

The bureaus in the Arab countries would be firmly linked with the commissioner general and the head office, so that they can obtain the information they need and can carry out their functions according to the directives of the commissioner general and under his supervision.

So that the measures taken by the main boycott bureau and the regional bureaus could be compulsory and deterrent, the Arab states issued boycott laws providing for penalties for those who deal directly or indirectly with "Israel."

In addition, the Arab states wanted to take steps to further support and back up the boycott. These steps included the incorporation into trade agreements concluded by any Arab state with any foreign country of a clause prohibiting that country from re-exporting Arab goods to "Israel," and the imposition of exceptional restrictions on commercial dealings with some countries because of their dealings with "Israel."

[Question] What steps has the main boycott bureau taken to stop the vicious Zionist plan to dig a canal between the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea?

[Answer] As for the Zionist enemy's digging a canal between the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea, the Arab League assembly has resolved that in case any natural or legal person helps or takes part in any way in the plan to dig a canal between the Dead Sea and the Mediterranean, or in the supplemental projects connected with that project, the boycott guidelines and provisions will be applied to him in accordance with the measures in effect. If the violation is not proven by an official Arab source, dealing with the transgressor will be prohibited once the regional bureaus' opinions are sought, and a warning will be issued. The names of the owners, board members and supervisors will be entered in the list of persons permanently prohibited from entering Arab countries. The embargo on the transgressing entity cannot be lifted until documents are presented disproving the basis for the charge.

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REGIONAL AFFAIRS

ISLAMIC CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS DISCUSS ANTI-IRANIAN RESOLUTIONS

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 May 85 pp 16-17

[Interview with 'Ali Kashif al-Ghita', the president of the second International Islamic Conference, and other conference participants by 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Qaysi; in al-Najaf, date not specified]

[Text] Immediately after the publication of the resolutions and proposals of the second International Islamic Conference held in Baghdad, Khomeyni attacked the conference, which is not surprising, since it was the equivalent of a high court that condemned the Iranian regime and demonstrated international Islamic support for Iraq in its move for peace and condemnation for Iran as the wrongful party. After a meeting with Dr Ma'ruf al-Dawalibi, the former Syrian prime minister and chairman of the follow-up committee of the People's Islamic Conference, in which he disclosed confidential details of the talks between officials of the Tehran regime and the mediation committee, AL-DUSTUR met with a number of prominent Muslim ulema who were among the 329 Muslim religious figures who participated in the conference and asked them their opinion of its resolutions and proposals. The holy city of al-Najaf was the site of the first interview with the president of the International Islamic Conference, the ayatollah and mujtahid, al-Shaykh 'Ali Kashif al-Ghita'.

AL-DUSTUR: What is your assessment of the decisions of the International Islamic Conference, of which you are the president?

'Ali Kashif al-Ghita': The decisions of the conference were very valuable ones that were inspired by Islamic principles and issued forth from the human principles upon which is erected the lofty edifice of state on the two high levels - the Arab and the Islamic.

AL-DUSTUR: What are your future plans with respect to the implementation of the various provisions determined by the conference, especially by the Islamic states?

'Ali Kashif al-Ghita': We will exert every possible effort to implement the provisions that appear in the collective resolutions, whatever the cost, and I call upon those Islamic states that love peace and the principles of the Koran and the Islamic Shari'ah to carry out Islam's stipulations. We expect the resolutions to be translated into practical actions that will serve the

Islamic goals that are the basis for these resolutions. But I think that we will harvest from them the fruits expected by anyone loyal to the high principles of Islam and the stipulations of the Holy Koran, especially now that the whole world has realized that Iraq's position is that of the defender and Iran's position is that of the hostile aggressor. The crime in this war falls on Iran's shoulders because Islam has made the judgment that the Muslim who defends is justified in his defense, whereas the attacker is culpable in his attack. Iraq accepted reconciliation from the first days of the war, in accordance with a peaceable approach, whereas Iran insisted on resolving the conflict using hostile, bloody means, and has not accepted reconciliation. The principles of Islam judge Iran to be the oppressor and the Iraqis to be the peaceable ones.

AL-DUSTUR: How do you view what is going on in Iran?

'Ali Kashif al-Ghita': What is going on in Iran is not Islamic, would be condemned by a witness to faith and is inconsistent with the ways of Muslims and Islamic justice. The government in Iran is ruled by impulses of anger and greed along with ignorance. It lacks the form necessary to make it, as they claim, an instrument for radical social change. It is rather a superficial facade behind which are hidden the power and influence of the ruler, both of which the Iranian people have experienced. My advice to the Iranian people is to return to the true Islam, the effectiveness of which has been proven by the experiences of life. The Iranian people must put pressure on their leaders to end this murderous war, in which the two adversaries lose, and only the iniquitous enemy profits.

The discussion moved to Dr Ihsan Ilahi Zuhayr, secretary-general of the Ahl al-Hadith Society, and editor-in-chief of the magazine TURGOMAN in Pakistan. In regard to his question about the resolutions of the conference and the behavior of the Iranian regime with regard to its insistence on continuing the war, he said:

Dr Ihsan Ilahi Zuhayrr: The decisions of the International Islamic Conference were made at an idealistic level. The wrongful party in Iran has shown disdain for all international conventions and efforts. The resolutions of the conference are in harmony with the desire of all Muslim ulema. I state that Iraq has stood alone against this vicious attack for the entire 5 years. In other words, Iraq has fought in defense of its existence and that of Muslims for longer than the period of the World War, which lasted for 4 and 1/2 years.

Iran is the aggressor and Iraq is the defender, and its defense is in harmony with the spirit of Islam. It is Iran that started the war when it first attacked peaceful cities, created disturbances in Iraq and spread the poison of factionalism under different masks. I assure you that Khomeyni is another fascist Hitler, who has destroyed the unity of the Islamic community, and I assure Iraq that there are a million Pakistanis who are fully prepared to go to war alongside Iraq against Khomeyni's aggression.

They are stubborn and imagine that the call to Islam is a kind of weakness, and persist in their error.

Dr Zuhayr spoke in Classical Arabic and quoted lines from Arabic poetry.

He went on to say: Permit me to be one of the first volunteers to go to war against the aggression of the wrongful party. I love the Arabs and the Arabic language because it is the language of the holy Prophet, and I love the Arabs because they are the bearers of the eternal message of God. Permit me to congratulate President Saddam Husayn for achieving a great victory for God at al-Qadisiyah: "And it was due from us to aid those who believed." [Koran 30:47]

Then AL-DUSTUR met with Shaykh Yusuf al-Sadiq, from Bahrain. In regard to his appraisal of the resolution of the second International Islamic Conference relating to the condemnation of the side that refuses to end the war:

Yusuf al-Sadiq: The resolutions were in their proper place, put the dots on the letters and informed some of those at the conference of additional facts that had been concealed from some of them. Baghdad has taken the Arab and Islamic defensive stance and has not tolerated that any injustice should block freedom, the strengthening of its faith, and the defense of its inviolability. We are proud of Iraq and its leader Saddam Husayn, who is defending the values of the Arabs and Islam against tyranny and pride.

Shaykh Khalid Zaydan, the Muslim Arab missionary to the Muslims of Australia spoke about the vanguard role of the Muslim ulema in making the resolution dictated by custom, the Koran and the Shari'ah against "the wrongful party," which calls itself Islamic and takes from the faith the veil and cover to carry out its expansionist aims against Islam.

He added: The Arab-Iranian war has gone on for a long time and one of the reasons for which it has gone on for so long is the laxness in the position held by some, the silence on the part of others and the neutrality demonstrated by the others. But the teachings of Islam reject civility at the expense of right - it is either right or wrong. The fact that Muslims from all over the world, meeting in Baghdad, have identified the wrongful party represents a victory for Islam and Muslims, and identifies those who have left Islam and made use of it simply to achieve their goals of occupying Arab territory and controlling their lands.

Shaykh Kamil 'Abdallah al-Qusayfi, leader of the Moroccan Islamic delegation said:

The Moroccans consider the war imposed on Iraq as their own war. They feel the glory of the victories achieved by their brothers against the willful aggression against Iraqi sovereignty. The resolutions of the conference were appropriate to an extent that ensured right and justice and accomplished the provisions of Islam and its teachings in punishing the wrongful: "If two parties among the Believers fall into a quarrel, make peace between them. But if one of them transgresses against the other, then fight against the one who transgresses." [Koran 49:9]. Truly the decisions of the conference were against the wrongful party, which refused the logic of peace and acted rashly, disregarding all the righteous efforts that call for peace.

AL-DUSTUR met with Shaykh 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Nimr, representative of al-Azhar and former minister for religious trusts in the Arab Republic of Egypt. He was asked for his opinion on the importance of the conference with regard to the Arab and Islamic worlds, and he replied:

The conference was necessary in view of the stubborn position taken by Iran toward the war and toward the offers for reconciliation that Iraq has offered. Islamic duty requires the Islamic ruler, if Islam rules in his heart and conscience, to adhere to Islam in such a case. And the judgment of Islam is clear with regard to Muslims generally and with regard to two parties to a war in particular. Wherever there is fighting between two individuals, two groups, two cities or two states, Muslims are ordered to take the initiative to settle the conflict or the fighting and assure the right of each of the two parties. The resolutions of the conference are in accord with the holy words: "But if one of them transgresses against the other, then fight against the one that transgresses until it complies with the command of God." [Koran 49:9].

By refusing to respond to the offers for peace and the offers of mediators, the words of God are then applied to Iran: "...then fight against the one that transgresses until it complies with the command of God."

Muslims must stand up to Iran with all possible means, to force it to stop the war.

The discussion ended with Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Khayyat, minister of holy places and religious trusts in Jordan. He said:

It is sad that war should arise between two Muslim countries. Iran was wrong to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs and try to annex some of its national territory under fanatical factional pretexts. The international Islamic consensus is that Islamic peoples have a duty not to stand aside as observers, but to take the initiative to demand the implementation of the resolutions of the conference at the international level, and to refrain from supplying the wrongful party, which is Iran, with arms and materiel to continue its aggression against a Muslim country in an effort to annex it under the cover of Islam.

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REGIONAL AFFAIRS

IRANIAN PRESIDENT'S SISTER DISCUSSES DEFECTION

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 18 May 85 pp 14-15

[Article by Diyab Nabhan: "The Continuation of the War Is the Main Reason for the Increase in Opposition to Government by the Ayatollahs"]

[Text] A war has never broken out, in any time or era, that did not come to an end, leaving peace among those involved in the war.

The war between Iraq and Iran, which is approaching the end of its 5th year, is no exception to this rule. It is destined to end, no matter how long it goes on, and peace will assert itself in the end, and find its place between the two warring sides, especially when the side that insists on continuing the war has to face the objective reality that it must give up this insistence and grope for any possibility to achieve peace with the other side. And especially when it finds that this insistence is nothing other than a suicidal blow approaching catastrophe, and that the internal political, societal, economic and even psychological erosion resulting from the costs of the war and what would be needed to continue it creates more reasons for unrest and instability, and more reasons for conflict, not just between the existing regime and the political and societal powers that oppose its style of governing, but also within the centers of power themselves within the regime, and within its agencies and organizations.

Observers of developments in Iran agree that the war, which the Iranian regime wanted as a pretext to prevent Iranians from raising questions about internal problems and crises in Iran, and to cover the purges of political opponents, has now become one of the factors most dangerous to the future of the Iranian regime itself, and a strong reason for the erosion of its agencies and capabilities. The danger is increased by the serious lack of financial resources and the intensity of the economic crisis and its ramifications on public life in Iran.

More than one observer has seen that the Iranians have been very frustrated by the dissipation of all the hopes for a life of justice, equality and freedom that enticed them after the fall of the shah. These frustrations deepened with the outbreak of war and the continual defeats of the Iranian forces on the battlefield as well as the increase in political and security pressures

imposed on all Iranians by the Iranian regime and its organs, and not just on political opponents.

Mahdi Bazargan is the leader of the Movement for the Liberation of Iran, and the first prime minister of the provisional Iranian government, which was set up after the government of Bakhtiyar fell and he went underground inside Iran and later fled. In an interview a few days ago with the French newspaper LE MONDE, Bazargan said that his movement will not participate in the presidential elections in Iran in the absence of freedom of opinion and expression and with the suppression of general freedoms by the Iranian regime. The Movement for the Liberation of Iran boycotted the second series of elections for the Iranian parliament, which were held last year, for the same reasons. It has also opposed the continuation of the war with Iraq and the excuses given by the regime for the hardships in everyday life, poverty, deprivation and the chaos that reigns in Iran.

Madame Badri Husayni Khamene'i is the sister of 'Ali Khamene'i, president of Iran, who fled from Iran the week before last with her five children to join her husband, Hojjat-ol-Islami 'Ali Tehrani, who headed the "Revolutionary Councils" in Tehran before fleeing to Baghdad 9 months ago. She told AL-TADAMUN that the vast majority of Iranians, having been frustrated by the continuation of the war, the economic crises, and the increasing repression, have come to oppose the present regime. Madame Badri, who is 45 years old, and was known in Mashhad for having led the women's demonstrations during both the period of the shah and the present period, responded to a question by AL-TADAMUN on her flight to Baghdad and the problems that this would cause for her brother, as president, by saying that she took that possibility into account, but that her brother "gave me no assistance after my husband fled, so why should I worry about him, when he is the one who refused to give me a passport and made me turn to other officials?" Madame Badri added, "I said to my brother, 'I appreciate your position - this is serious for you.' So I got in touch with Ahmad Khomeyni, Khomeyni's son, who refused me a passport on the pretext that I had been politically active, and that I would go to Baghdad and attack them from there. So I said to him, 'The present regime is worse than that of the former shah, who permitted you to join your father when he fled to Baghdad, whereas you do not permit me to join my husband.'"

Mahmud, the eldest son of Shaykh 'Ali Tehrani, who was imprisoned along with his mother and older sister, Wahidah, after the flight of their father to Baghdad, spoke to AL-TADAMUN about the conditions of his imprisonment.

"It had been decided that I would go to Tehran with my sister. As we were boarding the Mashhad train, a number of guards came and led us to their office in Mashhad, without our knowing why we were being arrested. They put my sister and me in solitary confinement for 3 days. When they brought me to court, I learned that we had been under surveillance and that the telephone in our house had been bugged and that they had recorded a telephone conversation with a friend of mine to whom I had recommended that he go to Turkey. When I decided to go to Tehran with my sister, the officials thought that we wanted to escape by stages. They released my sister and me after taking a handwritten bond from me of 100,000 tumans as a guarantee that I would not leave Mashhad."

Mahmud 'Ali Tehrani divides Iranians into two groups as to their opinion of the war. The first group is the overwhelming majority who oppose the war and know that the regime is bad, and therefore oppose all its actions. The second group is a small number of people whose interests are connected with the regime, and favor it. Mahmud adds that there are a number of people in the middle who cannot show their animosity toward the regime. Even those who support the regime, says Mahmud Tehrani, "when we speak with them, we find them opposed to the war, especially the young people. Anyone who can be sure of making a living refuses to participate in the war. The young people who participate in the war do so either to get work or to get money. To do so, they have to go to the front."

Wahidah 'Ali Tehrani, who was arrested in Mashhad with her brother, said to AL-TADAMUN, "Through our extensive personal connections I can say that a large number of Iranians are against the war. There are large numbers of people whose sons went to war and were killed who still think that they are missing in action."

When AL-TADAMUN asked Madame Badri Husayni Khamene'i about the relationship between the policy of the Iranian regime and its attitudes toward Islam, she responded: "The actions of the government have nothing to do with religion."

Thus the war that the Iranian leadership has conducted in order to remain in power and impose control over the Iranians has started to be a liability for it and an asset to the opposing political and societal forces. Will the Iranian leadership realize this objective reality and abandon the policy of obstinacy and insistence on a war that is rejected by the Iranians? Or will it continue to slide toward the fantasy of victory over the Iraqis and expansionism on their lands? In reality, they would be sliding on the blood of the Iranians themselves.

12727

CSO: 4404/408

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

GULF INDUSTRIAL CONSULTING ORGANIZATION REORGANIZING

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 10 Aug 85 p 27

[Article by Salih Zaytun in al-Dawhah: "Setting the House In Order and Strengthening Coordination With the Gulf Cooperation Council"]

[Text] The Gulf Industrial Consulting Organization [GICO], which has made al-Dawhah its headquarters, has begun reorganizing its administrative structure in a move which may be considered a translation of GICO's high aspirations ever since its founding in 1976. This reorganization, which began in July, is one of the major decisions made by the organization's board during its seventeenth session, which was held at GICO headquarters on 11 and 12 May.

According to a study issued by Saudi Arabia's General Management Institute, a major element in GICO's new organizational structure will be the establishment of new departments, in addition to new appointments which will coincide with the effective date of the new structure.

According to the Saudi institute's study, GICO will begin by establishing a new department to be called the Information and Industrial Coordination Department, whose function will be to heighten industrial awareness among and about the member countries by, for, example, publishing research and studies on industrial development in those countries, publishing specialized periodicals, booklets and journals, and holding industrial conferences and seminars.

In addition, a new department called the Planning and Follow-up Department will be established, to be added to an existing department, the Industrial Projects and Studies section, which has a projects department and an industrial studies department.

The new Information and Industrial Coordination Department will come under the Data, Information and Industrial Coordination section, supervised by an assistant secretary general, which also includes the industrial data bank.

In addition to the new structure, the GICO board, at the end of the second electoral session for the general secretariat which takes place every 4 years, approved the new administrative formations.

According to the new formations, the appointment of the Saudi candidate, Dr 'Abdallah Ahmad al-Mu'jil, as secretary general is extended for another 4 years as of 1 July 1985. The Qatari candidate, Director of the Industrial Department of the Qatar Ministry of Industry and Agriculture Engr 'Abdallah 'Ali 'Abdallah, was appointed assistant secretary general for GICO as of this coming October, to succeed 'Abd-al-Latif al-Jabir. Iraq nominated Sabah Rashid Muhammad Jasim al-'Ubaydi, director of Iraq's General Textiles Organization, for assistant secretary general to succeed its previous candidate, Nasif Dibdib.

The recent GICO board meeting stressed the importance of coordination and co-operation with the general secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], particularly in industrial consulting and technical studies. The board adopted a decision to strengthen coordination with the GCC board in the area of technical consulting committees, so as to combine their efforts and eliminate duplication of effort, in light of the results of the joint meeting of the GICO and GCC general secretariats in April 1985.

GICO will also strengthen its cooperation with Arab and international organizations and authorities. In this context, the board approved of the idea of participating in the seventh Arab industrial development conference, which will be held in Tunis in 1987. GICO's participation will consist of making the preparations for the conference, working with the Baghdad-based Arab Industrial Development Organization (AIDO).

The board approved GICO's participation in a seminar on the integration of petrochemical industries in Arab countries, which will be held in Bahrain in early December 1985 in cooperation with OAPC. The participants in the seminar will study ways of coordinating this vital industry, which occupies first place in GICO's concerns.

The board also approved an addendum proposed by the secretariat general for cooperating with the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in promoting industrial investment projects in developing countries.

With respect to GICO's upcoming projects, the board examined a study prepared by the organization on investment opportunities in the automotive battery industry. Those at the meeting agreed to the idea of changing the Saudi battery plant into a joint Gulf plant, provided that the Saudi investor is contacted in order to obtain the studies on the project and evaluate them.

Because of the importance of those industries which produce chemicals used in oil and gas prospecting and production, GICO and OAPC have made a joint effort to prepare a comprehensive study on the manufacture of such chemicals in Arab countries, with the intention of establishing one or more joint ventures to produce some of the substances used in these industries.

8559

CSO: 4404/429

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

ARTICLE COMMENTS ON 'INDISPENSIBILITY OF ARMED OPERATIONS'

Tehran ALIK in Armenian 22 Jul 85 pp 2,7

[Article by Y. Armen: "The Indispensability of Armed Operations"]

[Text] "The gun is once again testing our collective will, and we will be the ones to blame if we cannot provide it with the power and breath to grow, the persistence to overthrow existing political hierarchies and the ability to mobilize on multiple fronts." N. Berberian

The armed operations of the last decade, stemming from the spirit of demanding our rights, constitute one of the brightest episodes of our nation's recent history. These operations have given rise to numerous questions which need serious examination both on the internal and the international front.

On the internal front, these operations fostered the rapid development of political thought among the Armenian people and raised the awareness and dynamism of the people and partially the level of organization, but most importantly they transformed the Armenian nation from a state of conservative helplessness to one of aggressive pursuance.

On the external and international front, the armed operations projected the forgotten and disenfranchised Armenian nation as an alert, demanding and unified community which has not forgotten the genocide. As a result of our fighters' heroic acts, the international public takes the Armenian nation and its political cause seriously.

As for Turkey, the armed operations which reaffirmed the dynamic political presence of the Armenian nation have driven the enemy into a state of confusion. This is manifested by the fact that Turkey's fascist government has resorted to various strategies to neutralize the Armenian military, political and diplomatic initiatives and the strategic gains of the Armenian cause.

Armed operations staged in the 10-year interval between 1975 and 1985 brought about certain developments in political and diplomatic relations and made possible the mounting of international propaganda campaigns for the resolution of the Armenian question.

Looking back on the operations of the last 10 years one can generally conclude that the armed operations formed the nucleus of all the efforts that were and are made to advance our cause.

As in the case of other nations' liberation struggles, our struggle cannot dissociate itself from armed operations. Furthermore, there can be no liberation struggle without arms; no revolutionary work can be undertaken without literally resorting to violent means, and there can be no victory or national liberation without an armed popular struggle. A nation that is waging a liberation struggle or its armed vanguard will obviously be struck by blows in the course its struggle, and that prospect may for a moment be horrifying. But historical evidence shows that armed operations and, in general, liberation struggles can attain their goals only when they have the capability to overcome those hurdles and when they can inspire hope and confidence in their peoples.

It is clear that the last 15 years of the 20th century will be dominated by national liberation struggles as were the last years of the 19th century and the early period of the 20th century. Therefore, we must keep pace with the liberation struggles of other nations and expand our struggle in every respect (scope, quality, propaganda, etc.) so that we can have a role and a place in future political settlements of accounts. Otherwise, no one will sit at the table with us to discuss the resolution of the Armenian question.

There are those who believe that the armed operations have fulfilled the propaganda objectives expected from them, that it is time to lay down arms and to give the enemy a chance to adopt a serious approach to the Armenian question and that if the enemy does not change its stance we can always resume armed operations.

Such views lack the political maturity that is required for our nation's revolutionary struggle and for the resolution of a complex problem such as the Armenian question. Moreover, the struggle that has begun is not the outcome of coincidences but the embodiment of an array of circumstances. One cannot so easily discard all the circumstances that have led to the struggle and reduce the issue to a set of conditionalities to determine whether to end or to resume the struggle.

The Armenian armed struggle is the result of the development of objective and subjective conditions. The Armenians have been particularly influenced by the social and political revolutions that have taken or are taking place in Middle Eastern countries where there are large Armenian communities as well as by the different political movements, armed conflicts and political developments in those countries. The international conditions, namely the national liberation struggles everywhere from Latin America to distant African countries which have risen up against Western and American imperialism, Eastern and Soviet expansionism and old and new European colonialism have also had an effect on the advent and development of the Armenian armed struggle.

In the light of all these facts, it is not easy to give arms to a new generation and then halfway through the course take it away from them. That would only mean to halt our triumphant march to national liberation and to help the enemy. It would mean to abort an effort that was begun with great sacrifice. It would mean to give in to various pressures and political intrigues. It would mean to discard the enormous amount of experience gained in the process. Laying down arms would mean to disillusion a nation which has begun to be politicized and revolutionized. It would mean that our youth has

failed to achieve even a small proportion of our nation's goals. It would mean to return to the past "policies" of mourning and at best the colorless and apolitical "policy" called "preservation of Armenianism."

There is only one way to resolve the Armenian question and that is the course of armed national liberation struggle. All other courses are complements of this path.

Fortunately, our young generations are moving on the right path. Our job is to help them with all our strength so that that path can be expanded. It may well be that the Armenian who walks on that path may for a long time meet with only failure--although he has succeeded in the first phase--but as a great revolutionary has remarked, only persistent struggle can take us to the glorious victories of tomorrow.

It is obvious that without a strong, wide-ranging, radical and popular struggle for the restoration of our rights the Armenian nation will remain politically nonexistent because if we cannot impose our will when it is necessary who will listen to us? Indeed, no one listened to us for so many years.

The armed effort is extremely difficult. It is tied to a thousand issues. But all those problems can be resolved if the indispensability of that effort is impressed on broad segments of the nation. It is the people who own and drive that struggle, and it is only when the people realize the importance of the issue that the armed liberation struggle will expand, grow stronger and gain enormous impetus.

The gun confronts us and what we have to do is very clear.

9588

CSO: 4605/207

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

'ARMENIAN QUESTION' DISCUSSED AT VARIOUS CONVENTIONS

Paris GAMK in Armenian & French 30 Jul 85 p 3

[Text] During the last few weeks, [UCLA] Professor Richard Hovhannesian presented several lectures on Armenian issues at three international conferences. At the Soviet-American conference on ethnological issues, held in Moscow and Kiev from 3 to 13 June, Hovhannesian chaired one of the sessions and was the feature speaker at a later session. The topic of his lecture was the influence of the formation, history and structure of the Armenian-American community on its ethnic identity. His presentation prompted a discussion on variations in the development of nations and differences among dispersed nations. In Kiev, Professor Hovhannesian spoke about historical relations between Ukrainians and Armenians and the state of the Ukrainian-Armenian community.

From 14 to 21 June Hovhannesian visited Yerevan as the official guest of the [Soviet Armenian] Academy of Sciences. He had meetings with academicians in the institutes of archaeology and ethnology, history and orientology; officials of the Mesrob Mashdots library, the state historical archive of Soviet Armenia, and the Armenology department of the State University of Yerevan; members of the Committee for Cultural Relations with the Armenians of the Diaspora and Catholicos Vazken I.

From July 1 to 10, Professor Hovhannesian traveled to Greece and Israel to attend international conferences in those countries. The first conference, sponsored jointly by the Modern Greek Studies Association of the United States and the Anatolia College (founded in Marzvan in the last century and relocated in Greece in the 1920's), was held in Thessaloniki from July 1 to 5. At the inaugural session Hovhannesian spoke about "Armenians in Asia Minor: The Last Period 1878-1923." At the same session, Professor Ioannis Hasiotis of the Thessaloniki University explained Greece's policy regarding the Armenian question. The two presentations prompted an interesting discussion about the fate of the Armenians in the Ottoman Empire. In Thessaloniki, Hovhannesian met with U.S. Senator Paul Sarbanes as well as leading figures in the Greek-Armenian community. He also visited a campground for Armenian youth on the Khalkidiki peninsula.

On July 6, Hovhannesian traveled to Israel to take part in a conference organized by the Yad Vashem Memorial and the Institute on the Holocaust. Addressing teachers from five continents, Hovhannesian spoke about the Armenian

genocide underscoring its similarities and differences with the Jewish Holocaust. He also pointed out the problems and precedents that are being created in view of the fact that the issue of the genocide has not been resolved since World War I. Hovhannesian's lecture and a presentation by Holocaust studies expert Yehuda Bauer prompted an interesting discussion, and the two scholars were asked several questions for additional information. The academicians congratulated the organizers of the conference who had dedicated extensive time to the Armenian genocide as the precursor of the Holocaust. The participants pledged to cite the Armenian genocide in their classes.

In Jerusalem, Hovhannesian visited the Armenian Patriarchate of that ancient city. Responding to the request of the Armenian National Committee of the city, Hovhannesian also gave a lecture in Armenian about the issue of the repudiation of the genocide.

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CSO: 4605/211

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

ANKARA UNHAPPY WITH DEUKMEJIAN'S ROLE IN 'GENOCIDE COUNCIL'

Istanbul MARMARA in Armenian 8 Aug 85 p 1

[Text] Ankara--The authorization by the California State Assembly of \$5 million for a Jewish project to build a Genocide Museum [Wiesenthal Center's Museum of Tolerance] to document the persecution of Jews throughout history was sharply criticized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Speaking on this issue, ministry spokesman Yalim Eralp declared that this arrangement by the State Assembly, which is headed by Governor George Deukmejian, an Armenian, is not a contribution to culture and history but an effort "to buy genocide" for other transparent reasons.

Eralp stated that while President Reagan has reportedly not yet finalized Deukmejian's appointment to the Genocide Council [U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council] Turkey is extremely sensitive with regard to the infiltration of the council by Armenians and the promotion of the Armenian allegations. Eralp said: "Ankara's stance on this issue is already well known to the U.S. administration as well as Congress and the leadership of the Genocide Council."

In his press conference, Foreign Ministry spokesman Yalim Eralp also replied to a journalist's question on how he would view the activities of the Genocide Council if Deukmejian's appointment to that body is finalized. Eralp said: "If that appointment is finalized, the council will never be able to carry out its work realistically or to serve the purpose of its creation."

Eralp said that whereas it is acknowledged that the only indisputable fact that forms the basis of the establishment of the Genocide Council is the "Jewish Holocaust," the Armenians are also taking part in this project to promote their unacceptable allegations and thus clouding the meaning and purpose of the project.

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CSO: 4605/209

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

TURKISH PAPER: ARMENIANS DOMINATE 'GENOCIDE COUNCIL'

Istanbul MARMARA in Armenian 12 Aug 85 pp 1,4

[Text] GUNES reports from Washington:

President Reagan's decision to appoint an Armenian to the Genocide Council [U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council], which was formed during Jimmy Carter's tenure as president, has been causing repercussions and drawing continued criticism.

As is known, President Reagan named California's Armenian governor, George Deukmejian, as a member of the said council, which was formed "to commemorate the Jewish Holocaust," and this has caused indignation among Turkish circles in particular. It is reported that with the appointment of Deukmejian Armenians and Greeks will have a more influential role than the Jews in a body which was established for the Jews.

It is also reported that President Reagan has appointed a second Armenian, Seth Momjian, as a member of this council in addition to Deukmejian. Momjian is one of the most active members of the organization with Greek members of Washington [as published]. Also active in the Greek lobby are Constantine Dombalis, an influential figure in Richmond's Greek Orthodox church, and Kitty Dukakis, a human rights expert from Massachussets.

It is reported in this connection that the Armenians and the Greeks dominate the Genocide Council and have many supporters who have voted in favor of Resolution 192 in the Congress.

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CSO: 4605/210

ARMENIAN AFFAIRS

GERMAN PERIODICAL CLAIMS ARMENIAN GROUPS TRAIN IN IRAN

Istanbul MARMARA in Armenian 16 Aug 85 p 1

[Text] DIE WELT, one of the most widely read magazines in West Germany, carries an unusual report in its latest edition claiming that about 100 Armenians are being trained in Iran for the "Islamic revolution."

According to the Anatolia Agency, a DIE WELT correspondent was able to obtain secret documents which belong to Iran's 110th armored brigade and which contain remarkable revelations. Correspondent Jurgen Liminski learned from these secret documents that the said brigade is presently commissioned to train terrorists and to prepare them for overseas missions. According to these "secret documents," the commander of the said brigade dispatched certain instructions to Iran's Foreign Minister Velayati. These instructions, dated 4 June 1985, demanded from the foreign minister to have the Iranian consulate in Istanbul issue Iranian passports for about 100 Armenians.

DIE WELT says that responding to these instructions the Iranian foreign minister contacted officials of the Iranian consulate in Istanbul and asked them to supply passports for about 100 Armenians. According to the secret documents obtained by Jurgen Liminski, with these passports Turkish citizens of Armenian origin will go to Iran where they will receive Islamic education for some time and then they will return to Turkey. The magazine further reports that some of the said secret documents are in the possession of former Iranian prime minister Shahpur Bakhtiar who currently lives in Paris. Bakhtiar himself recently exposed the secret documents of the 110th armored brigade.

The Iranian Consul General in Istanbul, Mohammed Tahiri, said in an official press statement in response to DIE WELT's charges that the entire report is a fabrication and is in no way related to the truth.

Tahiri said such rumors are created by certain monarchists living in the West for certain reasons and motives. Last month, KAYHAN, a pro-Shah paper published in London, carried similar forged documents in Farsi with the same purpose and suggesting the same motives.

Tahiri added that the Islamic Republic of Iran has not and will not become a tool of Armenian plots and Armenian terrorism.

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CSO: 4605/212

EGYPT

ISRAELI MEASURES IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES CRITICIZED

PM150957 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 12 Aug 85 p 5

[Editorial: "Israeli Protest Against U.S. Criticism"]

[Text] The Israeli Government behaves strangely and reacts even more strangely. One of its recent strange actions and reactions was the Israeli protest which Israeli Ambassador in Washington Meir Rosen lodged with the State Department in Washington regarding U.S. criticism of the New Israeli suppressive measures against Palestinian citizens in the occupied territory.

The Israeli Government could not tolerate criticism even from the United States, its greatest supporter and benefactor since it came into being. This is despite the fact that criticism by a friend is the sincerest criticism and that this friend was kind and gentle in directing his criticism against Israeli actions that could only be racism, which Israel allegedly condemns when it takes place against the blacks in Africa.

The U.S. criticism which caused such an uproar in Israel was in effect a State Department statement expressing regret at the Israeli Government's decision to reimpose the administrative detentions laws and the application of the death sentence against any Palestinian suspected of being involved in the activities of resisting occupation. The statement said that the Israeli measures will only lead to further tension in the occupied territories.

But the Israeli Government, which seems to have gotten used to U.S. approval of almost all its actions, was surprised by this U.S. attitude: Hence its angry protest against it.

We would like to ask the Israeli Government and request an explanation from it regarding its decision to step up oppressive measures against the Palestinians. Were the existing measures of suppressing freedoms, closing down schools and universities, exploiting resources and facilities, and the frequent imposition of curfews weak and ineffective measures that needed to be stepped up? We will not expect an answer to this, but we do hope that the Israelis will realize that such measures against innocent citizens will in fact only lead to further tension and disturbances. Moreover they will only lead to world public knowledge of the truth about Israel's claims of democracy and civilization. The Palestinian people's voice demanding their legitimate rights cannot be silenced. The solution is for the Israeli Government to show a real desire for just and comprehensive peace and to end this intransigence and attempts to block every serious attempt to achieve peace. Perhaps Israel's objection to the list of names of the Palestinians proposed to participate in the preparatory talks with the United States will be the last of these attempts.

EGYPT

DPRK EMBASSY REJECTS SMUGGLING CHARGES

NC121337 Paris AFP in English 1320 GMT 12 Aug 85

[Text] Cairo, 12 August (AFP)--Egyptian authorities have accused two North Korean diplomats of trying to smuggle 461,360 local pounds out in a carpet, then freed them after an equivalent sum was handed over, reliable sources said today.

The North Korean Embassy here, to which they were released after being arrested on Saturday, refused to accept the facts submitted by the Egyptians.

According to the sources close to the prosecutor's office here, Embassy Commercial Secretary Ming Bok Sik and Commercial Official in France Cheng Bom So [spelling of names as received] were arrested when about to take an Austrian flight to Syria.

Egyptian authorities alleged that banknotes were rolled up in a plastic carpet. A search had been authorised by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry.

The diplomats told Egyptian authorities the money represented the value of U.S. dollars exchanged on the Egyptian unofficial market.

The present unofficial trading rate is 1.26 Egyptian pounds to the dollar, against the official rate of 0.83. The Egyptian pound is strong on the Syrian market in Damascus.

On release the diplomats had been given back their passports and plane tickets, the sources said.

Egyptian law allows those alleged to have contravened exchange regulations to hand over monies against an official undertaking not to start legal action.

CSO: 4500/187

JORDAN

INFORMATION MINISTER DISCUSSES LOCAL, ARAB MEDIA

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 10-16 Jul 85 pp 20-21

[Interview with Minister of Information Muhammad al-Khatib by Mufid Fawzi; in Amman, date not specified]

[Text] Muhammad al-Katib, Jordan's minister of information in the new government of Zayd al-Rifa'i, refused to be photographed. He said that a picture of information in his country is more important than his own picture. When I tried to convince him, an old journalist, of the importance of pictures, he made a point about his reluctance to be photographed. He said, "I had to get a new passport when I became a minister. My activity would be delayed if I did not sit in front of the photographer."

The 54-year old minister told me, "If a country has an effective information apparatus which functions ideally, there would be no need for the post of information minister."

I obtained a picture of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak with Minister al-Khatib taken in Aqabah, from the minister's secretary.

Muhammad al-Khatib, or Abu Muhammad as he is called by his close friends, learned of his selection as Jordan's minister of information from the Jordanian politician and poet Dawlah 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Rifa'i, who telephoned him to say, "Abu Samir has been looking all over for you." Abu Samir is Mr Zayd al-Rifa'i, the head of the government.

Muhammad al-Khatib's previous position before becoming minister of information was governor of the Jordanian governorate of al-Balqa'.

Muhammad al-Khatib described the post of governor to me calmly and philosophically.

[Answer] It is true that I have risen through the ranks in the field of information over a period of 20 years or more. But I spent 8 years of my working life as a governor. I absorbed this experience as follows:

1. I left the offices for the streets of the most important places in Jordan, namely the Jordanian countryside far from the capital, in order to get an accurate picture of the citizens and their problems, their hopes and their pains.

2. The governorship was an opportunity to get to know the scope of problems without minimizing or exaggerating them. I admit that I became closely acquainted with more than one Jordanian whom I did not have the honor of knowing before.

3. The governorship taught me how to serve the people, and not the reverse. The position tested my ability to give, and I found myself working long hours until I became sick, and the doctors forbade me to smoke and advised me to walk for an hour every morning.

4. Information work involves mingling with people. The governorship provided me with a wealth of experience. Perhaps in fact that is the equipment I have brought to the position of minister. Information is the bridge that connects people. People are the substance of information work.

[Question] How does a man who loves information, whose profession is information and about whom it can be said that he came from the womb of information, view information?

[Answer] If we take Arab information from the standpoint of the mission it must fulfill and the results it must achieve--presenting and clarifying matters, and winning over international public opinion--perhaps I can tell you frankly that it is below average. Yes, I will say it, and take full responsibility for this opinion. I am not trying to make a distinction between the information apparatus of one state and another, rather I am speaking about Arab information in general. Over the last 25 years information in the third world and Arab countries has developed into propaganda. My understanding of information, however, is that it is an objective field of work the goal of which is to communicate a message which consists of facts to people's feelings. I can thus say that Arab information has achieved meager success; it can not yet be said that it has been successful.

I interrupted the minister to ask him what had caused the [Arab] information apparatuses to be "below average," as he put it.

[Answer] One reason is a lack of clear-sightedness. Before stating anything publicly a person must know what he is talking about and be convinced of its veracity. Another reason is the style by which a reporter communicates the values he wants to make public. The style needs reexamination. The style is technical and specialized, and must be changed because it is substandard when compared to similar work in the intellectually developed countries of the world. Another reason is the quality of the personnel. The quality of people working in the field of information is not high enough. They are information clerks and bureaucrats, and are not passionately devoted to the field of information. There is a big difference between a routine job and a job one loves.

How can someone work in the field of information and not be good at one foreign language at least? How can someone work in the field of information and not be proficient in public relations, which is the basis of information? The information worker must first of all have talent, but must also be perceptive,

intelligent and educated. Again, I am not speaking about the Jordanian information apparatus so much as I am discussing the Arab information apparatus as a whole.

Information work is teamwork. Nowhere in the world can the minister of information say, "I did such and such by myself." No matter how powerful he may be he cannot make that claim. The fact is that he and his colleagues or he and his organization are able to accomplish such and such.

I Began As a Journalist

[Question] Information seems to be the subject dearest to your heart. By this criterion, as minister of information, you are the right man in the right place.

[Answer] I am not in a position to accomplish anything by myself. Let me say it again, "I and my colleagues are able to accomplish things." If you have noticed that I love working in the field of information it is because I have spent my whole life involved in information. I began my professional career as a journalist in Arab countries, first in Iraq, then in Cairo. I went to Cairo in 1957, and remained there until 1964, working for the Middle East News Agency, first as an editor for Arab affairs, then as head of the news division. Then I returned to Jordan to work in the information agency. I later resigned from the official information agency and worked as a journalist. I had a weekly newspaper. Then I returned again to the information field. I am proud to have founded, together with several colleagues, the Jordanian News Agency. Then I worked more than once as director general of the bureau of publications, then as director of broadcasting, as governor, and finally as minister of information.

[Question] I would like to pursue your strong feelings about Cairo as a turning point in your life.

[Answer] (Smiling). Your question shows that you must have done some research on me. You know, for example, that I have three children who were born in Cairo. This is sufficient to know how strongly I feel about Cairo. I can tell you that the happiest time of my life was in Cairo. I graduated from the University of Cairo law school. For 3 years I worked in Cairo as a journalist. Those were the "richest" days of my life. I have long-standing friendships in Egypt. I used to live at 1 al-Massahah Street in Duqqi near the Urman Garden. Whenever I go to Cairo I go there and watch 'Amm Faris selling soda and cigarettes. I visit 'Amm Hasan, the doorman of the building. For me, and for others, Cairo is the symbol of love in the flower of youth. Egypt truly represents an ancient heritage, history and civilization. I studied, and how I read in the early 1950's! As students we went to three lectures a day given by Egypt's great and brilliant thinkers. The press was a group of clubs at which hundreds of conflicting, varying and clashing ideas and movements were argued. We used to go to the bookstores and buy the most important and profound books. Cairo was theater, culture and public gardens. Egypt was a good, ancient and spontaneous Arab people who knew only love.

We Outdo the Enemy

[Question] What do you think of the information bickering?

[Answer] As a Jordanian Arab citizen I view the Arab nation as a single community. Artificial circumstances have divided it into individual nations. It is incumbent on every educated person to work for reunification. This is the principle that I understand as a citizen before I am a minister. We cannot allow regionalism and hatred to deepen the divisions which have been imposed on the Arab nation. We must help to bring about closer and deeper relations so that we can devote ourselves to join Arab or unified Arab efforts to serve the main Arab causes, particularly the Palestinian cause. Another major cause is development, which concerns Arabs everywhere. How can we attain Arab uniformity and integration when we bicker over information? Superficial primitive attacks do not penetrate deeply but pass along the skin, without people being aware of the danger that this will deepen the gap between the Arabs day by day. I believe that the information apparatus must be objective, that it must present the facts, and that it must refrain from bickering. It will then become a positive apparatus which will serve Arab goals. The result of bickering is always more bickering. Unfortunately, we sometimes outdo the enemy in ripping apart the Arab peoples and nations. What could the enemy want more than to thwart the Arab mission? We are achieving the same goal with our information bickering.

I Am For Progress

[Question] Do you subscribe to the calmness theory in information work?

[Answer] Calmness is required in the field of information. By calmness I mean the opposite of convulsive movement. But I do not approve of calmness which is hostile to progress. I am for progress.

I am for permanent, perpetual progress, but I am against knee jerk reactions and bickering. Information never sleeps and is never calm. Information is progress.

[Question] People say that the government of Zayd al-Rifa'i is a government of multiple tasks. What does that mean?

[Answer] The government of Mr Zayd al-Rifa'i is a Jordanian government formed by His Majesty King Husayn as empowered by the constitution. I can say that the outline of the government's general policy was contained in the letter of appointment which the king sent to the prime minister when he formed the government. I can say that it is a government of complete reform, which will establish a whole new set of domestic and external priorities for Jordan. Arab solidarity, which has diminished to the point of almost vanishing completely, is a fundamental part in this policy.

[Question] Do you have any observations to make about the Arab press?

[Answer] I believe that ministers of information must not interfere with the press. I am therefore reluctant to express my opinion lest I be accused of

interfering with the press. But speaking as a citizen, a human being and a reader, the press must be a faithful reflection of society. I want the news to be accurate, informed and impartial. I want what I read in the press to consist more of facts than intimations. The written word enters every Arab house. The writing must be clean. I want political decision makers to give journalists the full story so that they can write with conviction, without the fog caused by a lack of information.

(Our discussion was interrupted by the minister's secretary, who said that an old man wanted to congratulate the minister on attaining his position. Muhammad al-Khatib got up and received the man. He discovered that he was from al-Salt, which is in the district of which he had been governor. He returned after a short while.)

I could not refuse to meet an old man who took the trouble to come to Amman to congratulate me.

I was speaking about the press. I think Mr Zayd al-Rifa'i will meet with journalists at least once a month. I myself will receive them every other week to summarize for them the most important public information. They will not perceive any lack of information.

The First Dossier Before Me

[Question] What do you read?

[Answer] I read political memoirs, particularly autobiographies. I keep up to date on important world statesmen, even those who have left office. It's nice to know about others' experiences. I read about economics because I consider it a fundamental part of public life throughout the world.

[Question] What do you listen to?

[Answer] I listen to all kinds of refined music. Every artistic style elevates. If a person in the field of information did not have an ear for music he would not have an ear for anything else.

[Question] You are also responsible for the Ministry of Culture in Jordan. How do you see the link between information and culture?

[Answer] I believe that there is a natural connection between information and culture. A person working in the field of information cannot achieve success if he is not educated. Culture is a commodity for everyone. It is a part of human nature. Culture and information complement each other. By using theater I can accomplish my information task perhaps 100 times more effectively than through broadcasting or the press.

[Question] What was the first file on your desk as minister of information?

[Answer] The file of our information press offices. How are they functioning now, and how are they improving in carrying out their mission?

[Question] How would those who are close to you describe you?

[Answer] I am more interested in people than I am in myself. It is much better for a person to steer clear of hatred, because, if I may say so, steering clear of hatred brings one closer to paradise. A certain degree of humility does no one any harm. A belief in communal work and an avoidance of individualism. A person's only wealth is his sincerity, his respect for people and people's respect for him. That is my wealth. I have no other.

Impressions of Mubarak

[Question] (I asked about his impression of President Husni Mubarak when he saw him at al-'Aqabah).

[Answer] I had been reading about President Mubarak, and then had an opportunity to meet him in Nuwaybi' during ceremonies for inaugurating the shipping line. Although we had only several minutes of personal contact, and a simple, spontaneous direct conversation, I was able to sense that President Mubarak had a charming and naturally warm personality. He is influenced by what he believes in and what he reacts to. He leaves a good impression with anyone who listens to him.

[Question] If you were not minister of information, what type of work would you choose to do?

[Answer] I would want to be a correspondent for a respected Arab newspaper, and travel around the world to the hot spots. I started out as a journalist and I have done this kind of work, and I consider it the most glamorous kind of journalistic work. I have journalism under my skin. I came to information from journalism, not the other way around.

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JORDAN

VARIOUS SENIOR EXPERTS DISCUSS DOMESTIC AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 5, 6 Aug 85

[Article: "At a Comprehensive Symposium on Agricultural Conditions in Jordan"]

[5 Aug 85 p 10]

[Text] Since the current cabinet assumed its responsibilities, it has been trying earnestly to carry out the contents of the book on the lofty assignment of reviving the Jordanian economy and guaranteeing the citizens social security and self-sufficiency in food. The government has devoted most of its attention to the agricultural sector, on grounds that that is one of the most important sectors supplying our domestic economy with revenues. To this end, Mr Zayd al-Rifa'i, the prime minister, chaired a lengthy Higher Agricultural Council meeting last week which held a comprehensive discussion on agricultural conditions and adopted the suitable resolutions in their regard.

In conformity with the government's aspirations to mobilize all capabilities and resources to serve the agricultural sector, a symposium was held yesterday in the Jordanian Television building in which Messrs Badri al-Mulqi, director of the Lands and Survey Department, Hasan al-Nabulusi, director of the Cooperative Organization, Dr Salim al-Lawzi, deputy minister of agriculture, and Dr Sami al-Sanna', director of the Agricultural Loans Department, took part.

Hasan Al-Nabulusi

Mr Hasan al-Nabulusi talked about the importance of the agricultural sector in our life and the fixed goals which our agricultural policy must contain. He said, "Agriculture attracts the attention of all citizens. The farmer who exhausts himself and produces aspires to reap the returns of his exhaustion. Agriculture in Jordan has gone through periods of neglect and decline. Fortunately, there has been a tendency to uplift the agricultural situation and eliminate the obstacles which are in its way. This attention began at the beginning of the current decade and has continued and is constantly growing. We wish the efforts of the government, the farmers and the organizations

would come together to realize something stable, because the current situation is cause for anxiety. Production is good, but prices are low and not feasible."

Mr al-Nabulusi said, "Views regarding the constant elements in agricultural policy must not change with every condition; no one will dispute that the land is a basic resource which we must preserve, and we must preserve the water and plant cover from abandonment, deterioration, the loss of fertility, salinity and desert encroachment.

"We are not lacking in desert and we must encroach on it, not leave it to encroach on us. The position regarding these constant elements in agricultural policy must not change or be replaced. As to the other things, these are executive policies which are concentrated on acquiring the greatest possible production of available resources without subjecting these available resources to waste. We must cover the inhabitants' needs so that we can raise our country's economic level and raise the economic level of the producing peasant in a major way. In this regard, the issue of increasing production and organization, including marketing, development and subsequent following measures, come to our mind."

Dr Salim Al-Lawzi

Dr Salim al-Lawzi, the deputy minister of agriculture, spoke about the study the Higher Agricultural Council discussed and said that it included everything that had been written in the area of agriculture and the recommendations and resolutions of the symposia or working papers which emerged from the session of the National Consultative Assembly and the Chamber of Deputies. The most important contents of the Ministry of Agriculture study were general data on the agricultural sector, land, water resources, manpower and capital, that is, investment, financing, agricultural ingredients, agricultural management and agricultural marketing.

The study articulated the problems each of these factors is suffering from, the general goals of agricultural policy and the means for carrying these goals out. The Higher Agricultural Council has considered this study in effect a basic document for setting out to apply future agricultural policy and development plans in the sector of agriculture.

Dr Sami Al-Sanna'

Then Dr Sami al-Sanna' talked about the increase in production and said, "Concentration on increasing production in the coming years must be in two main sectors or commodities, the production of grain of both types, wheat for human consumption and fodder grains, since through this approach we will be providing two things in which Jordan is suffering from a great deficiency, grain and red meat and milk and dairy products. Our imports of grain last year came to about 70 million dinars, of red meat about 23 million dinars and of milk and dairy products about 15 million dinars. Overall, with respect to fruit, this is a very modest figure and God willing we will make up this deficit through the projects that exist now and will perhaps become fruit exporters in a short time. There are investments which have been made

in the past few years. The basic deficit in the Jordanian agricultural sector is its failure to respond to two basic strategic materials, wheat and fodder and red meat. There is accelerating consumption and at the present time we are covering about 20 percent of our wheat consumption. We consume about 400,000 tons while our production is about 80,000 tons. As I view it, this consumption will rise perhaps to 580,000 tons in 1990 and will be around 500,000 tons in 1995. In this case, the level of self-sufficiency in this commodity will drop, if the current circumstances continue, to the equivalent of 10 or 12 percent, which is something that is not acceptable by any standard. The same is the case with respect to red meat. At present we import 75 percent of the value of our consumption. What gladdens one is that obvious decisions have been made for proceeding in this direction. One of these decisions, for example, was to offer as compensation or rent out agricultural land in the eastern areas and southern areas which have promise of expansion in terms of irrigation and rent them out for purposes of producing wheat, grain and fodder. This as far as I know can provide no less than 150,000 dunums in the promising areas. We can say that production emphasis in the future will be on the two main main strategic issues, the economic one and self-sufficiency in food.

"For the sake of expanding the production of grain and meeting the deficiency in this, we must find new land to cultivate."

Badri Al-Mulqi

Mr Badri al-Mulqi, the director of the Land and Survey Department, talked about the significance of renting out government lands in the east and south of the country and said "I believe that the government land concerned is that which is given the name of the eastern lands. These are defined by the railway which divides the farmland from the farmlands in which transactions are being held now.

"It is well known that the average rainfall in these lands is low and that no farming is suitable on them unless they are provided with irrigated agriculture through groundwater wells. Any activity in this area will of necessity require the presence of water studies on the groundwater which the Water Authority now has exclusive control over. The Water Authority will monitor this process and we will stay current with this monitoring and organize sites in a manner where we will draw up maps of every site where there are adequate, assured water reservoirs so that we will not get people involved in places they have chosen for investment where groundwater does not exist.

"We hope that these lands we will choose will be extensive. There are sites which are now carefully studied on the al-Suwan plain, extensive areas on which we will make a start in order to pave the way for investors, in addition to the current expansions that exist there. We will pave the way for any applications we will receive. These applications will be handed over to a committee the Higher Agricultural Council has proposed, which is roughly similar to the Committee to Encourage Agricultural Investment. This committee can include personalities who have broad knowledge in the field of agricultural expertise, so that the recommendations can assume a complete form.

"This area for investment in reality will pave the way for the private sector, the companies and any type of investment, on condition that a serious attitude be present in the applications, bonds be submitted and the feasibility be studied."

Dr Sami al-Sanna' interrupted to say: "One of the decrees was to classify land in general in Jordan. (What can we exploit?) This applies to the eastern areas. If the land is good for farming and water is available, this land could be fit to rent out, as was the case in the al-Sawan plain, since the subject was studied from the technical angle by the Ministry of Agriculture. This applies to the eastern areas, which will be rented out to private sector companies and organizations after the study on them is made."

Mr al-Mulqi continued his statement at the symposium by saying, "This matter called for the cancellation of this statute and the codification of a new one, the State Property Management Law for 1974. This law cancelled the preceding one and set out a new principle, which is that of rejuvenating the land -- the land to the person who rejuvenates it. We rent the land out for a period of 5 years under specific terms.

"If these terms are met, the land can be compensated for at the price which prevailed before the rejuvenation process."

Mr al-Mulqi stated "There still are areas adjacent to the eastern regions which are not fit for farming now which we are intending to exploit, and limited sites between the old grading work and these sites. The Land Department's work is now being carried out in these areas, and we will respond to tribal views in these areas, which will have specific ideas and boundaries."

The Farming Pattern

In response to a question on the application of the farming pattern, Dr Salim al-Lawzi said "This issue is of maximum importance since we must think about it in a loud voice at this time particularly as a result of the increase in irrigated areas, especially in the al-Aghwar areas, the mountain heights and the artesian wells. There is a perceptible increase in lands under irrigation, which of course will increase production, in addition to the pursuit of concentrated farming such as greenhouses, of which we possess 20,000, whose output exceeds 80,000 tons of vegetables, in particular cucumbers, in addition to the uses of technology, such as drip irrigation, the application of fertilizer, insecticide use and other things which have led to an increase in and excessive production, prompting the cabinets which followed one another after the beginning of the eighties to think of the need to apply a farming pattern. The farming pattern, according to the normal, simple definition, is for us to cultivate our requirements in all categories which we can consume locally and not think of increasing our production of things we do not need which cause us problems, taking into consideration exporting and processing and the factors of production which interact in the production process. Consequently, we have thought of applying a specific farming pattern, taking our need for local consumption, exporting and processing into consideration. Unfortunately, nothing is processed here in substantial form except for tomato sauce, and the equation has been made on this basis.

"I would like to explain what we mean by the application of the farming pattern and what the problem we are suffering from at the present time is. There are, for example, tomatoes. If we take our production of tomatoes in the past 3 years, we will find that we are indeed cultivating at a rate of 158,000 donums of tomatoes a year, and if we compare that with what we really need, this area must not exceed 80,000 donums.

"The former area, 158,000 donums, produces 373,000 tons, while we are thinking of applying a farming pattern which will give us just 254,000 tons. There is a surplus to our needs. Exports, which we have computed for the past 3 years, are 135,000 tons. If we continue with the same export volume, we will want to preserve this figure in applying the new farming pattern. We may perhaps be able to increase it, but this is what can be seen. We have traditional markets, some of which we have abandoned because they have started to produce, and consequently we must think of not producing more than we need. For example, if we start processing tomatoes, and we were processing 25,000 tons under the pressure of farmers, we must not process more than 15,000 tons, so that we can arrive at some tomato sauce production, because on every ton we process we as a government lose 250 to 270 Jordanian dinars just as subsidies for processing a single ton of tomato sauce, because it costs us about 520 dinars and we sell what is surplus to our requirements to neighboring Arab countries for about 250 dinars. This is a money-losing business."

Dr al-Lawzi said, "Now, in the context of the current traditional farming pattern, what is available for consumption now and is causing all the marketing problems here are 211,000 tons of tomatoes at a time when only 125,000 tons are consumed; the difference between the two figures is the problem we are suffering from. Consequently, we have actually started partially to think about the farming pattern in the higher-altitude areas, and to some extent have been successful in applying it. I can say that the application of the farming pattern will bring us results of approximately 75 percent.

"We will try at the beginning of the next agricultural season to apply the farming pattern in the Jordan Valley on the existing areas, taking into consideration what we consume and what we can export and process."

Points of Attraction

He said, "In reality, we will start setting out points of attraction in applying the farming pattern. It actually was an Agricultural Council resolution that encouragement prices be set out for the commodities we want to cultivate by means of this farming pattern and that their production be increased. For example, we import about 30,000 tons of onions whereas our production last year ranged from 15,000 to 20,000 tons. Therefore we will try to set out an encouragement price for this commodity and an encouragement price will be set out for sweet potatoes so that the market's need may be covered through local production. As regards grain, one of the most important Agricultural Council decrees in this regard was to rent out the eastern areas and increase the production of grain and fodder, and consequently develop livestock resources on the fodder that is produced."

He added, "We are currently making preparations to provide permits to apply the farming pattern in the Jordan Valley, adopting the rule I mentioned above, which is that of the equation of production equals consumption plus exports plus processing. In fact, the permit forms will be ready as of tomorrow in the Jordan Valley.

"In order to investigate the farmers' need and desire to apply the farming pattern, we have visited all the agricultural units in the Jordan Valley. We have also visited the owners of artesian wells in the eastern regions and have asked them a direct question on what they want to farm. If what they want fits into the data we have set out, we tell them, 'Go ahead as you wish.' If their answer is different from that, we tell them, 'Stop, we want to give you a specific percentage.'

"In fact, this system of direct contact has had a number of benefits, since we have explained the farming pattern and why it must be applied, because the 'yield' should be the 'price yield,' not the 'production yield' and the quantity which is surplus to requirements, and many farmers produce small volumes at specific times of the year and get good prices.

"Another important Agricultural Council decree is that related to the creation of encouragement prices, the creation of incentives and government intervention in the process of providing production accessories in the form of seeds and fertilizer at reasonable, acceptable prices. As we have said, the government does not want to drag people by force into applying the farming pattern. Therefore, it provides incentives for applying it. It has often happened that farmers have come to us and requested application of the farming pattern."

Dr al-Sanna' said, "We must not believe, beforehand, that application of the farming pattern will eliminate agricultural production surpluses. This is generally the case in the agriculture sector. Even the countries of the European Common Market have not yet been able to get rid of dry milk surpluses. The danger in agricultural surpluses lies in their being a characteristic which is concomitant with production. When that happens from time to time, this issue is of no importance and happens because of circumstances of the economic climate. However, what has happened here is that it has become a characteristic which is concomitant, and this is where the danger lies."

He added, "We in the organization started feeling the presence of a surplus of meat chicken and eggs in 1980. Therefore at that time we took a decision on the basis of which we stopped giving any loans to any projects to produce eggs or meat chickens, and we tried to maintain a state of balance. As a result of that, we stopped giving any loans to any farmer who wanted to buy greenhouses to grow vegetables and announced that we were prepared to offer loans and credit facilities to farmers who adhered to the farming pattern. There is an agreement among the Ministry of Agriculture, the board of directors of the organization and the Agricultural Products Marketing Company for the Jordan Valley tomato sauce plant to accept only the production of farmers who adhere to the farming pattern, and the factory will not take the output of people who do not. This all constitutes part of a series of mea-

asures to encourage people to commit themselves to the general agricultural plan."

Mr al-Nabulusi followed up by stating "It is the government's duty to print up the broad outlines and that of officials in the government to translate the broad outlines into goals which the government is aiming at beyond the subject. However, I would like to state two things in this regard. The first is that these goals actually be translated and the second is that this take place rapidly and at the right time. For example, we import 40,000 tons of lamb and a decree has been issued to proceed toward self-sufficiency. The stage of self-sufficiency will not be attained by slogans alone; rather, it is necessary that measures be taken which are aimed at stimulating sheep growers because otherwise the process will continue to be restricted to slogans. When you talk about meat, we of necessity talk about milk. We find that the price of fresh milk is close to that of water, which is something that is extremely odd.

"Regarding the subject of imports, I can say that some countries set out a fixed import-export policy by setting out a specific date for imports and exports, which helps sheep growers plan for sheep production.

"Therefore I consider that we should deal with this situation as follows:

"First, we should allow exporting to take place continuously, concentrate on the import of slaughtered, not live, meat and regulate the process so that we can cover the needs of the market in accordance with circumstances. This requires that we import let us assume 70 tons a day during the production months, from the month of March to the month of August, and import double this amount during the other months. In this way we will indeed have protected and encouraged sheep growers.

"Second, a consistent agricultural policy should be set out and strengthened with flexible, adjustable decrees to keep up with circumstances and needs.

"Third, there should be a comprehensive agricultural plan taking all aspects of agricultural development, from land to water, people, loans, marketing and regulating activities, into account. Then after that we come to the issue of who does what, which is the issue of the assignment of roles."

Dr al-Lawzi said "All the decisions which were taken at the first meeting will be followed up on, including those related to the increased production of commodities where increased production is required, such as grain, fodder and livestock resources, in addition to the reduction in areas farmed with vegetables, which cause marketing problems, and the regulation of the agricultural sector.

"Specialized committees have been formed to put these decisions in practice and they have started their actual work. Working papers will be prepared which will be presented to the Agricultural Council, and we hope that the process of developing agriculture and developing the relationship among the organizations working in the agricultural sector will begin. I believe that if the Higher Agricultural Council's decrees are translated into practical,

well-studied measures, we will have begun the process of correcting the course of agriculture in this country.

"We expect that in 5 or 10 years we will reach an advanced stage which is very far removed from the current situation. The future 5-year plan which we will start on in 1986 will adopt all these projects and decisions which were taken for the sake of development, God willing."

[6 Aug 85 p 5]

[Text] Today we are publishing the second agricultural symposium Jordanian Television broadcast on the discussion of agricultural conditions; in this, Messrs Marwan Dudin, chairman of the board and director general of the Jordanian Agricultural Products Marketing and Processing Company, and Mazin 'Abd-al-Qadir, member of the company's board, took part.

Marwan Dudin

Mr Dudin said, "The Ministry of Agriculture has presented a plan which in its final section contained the issue of marketing. The administration committee of the Jordanian Agricultural Products Marketing and Processing Company also presented a plan on the same subject.

"The issue was discussed from two angles:

"First, the marketing process is basically and in its general nature a regulatory one. It is necessary, in discussing setting out solutions, to differentiate between the regulation of marketing on the one hand and dealing in agricultural products on the other, and consequently dealing with them in the local market and by exports.

"I believe that agreement has been reached in the Agricultural Council on the first point, and since the essence of and success in the marketing process depends on regulation, the absence of regulation encumbers the transaction processes with inconsistent performance.

"In our review of the situation since the start of the sixties, it is apparent that the regulating process has been absent, or nearly absent. What is meant by 'regulating process' is complete government activity. It is part of the government's responsibility to set out clear bases for agricultural product marketing policy and to set forth a competent, trained agency to take over the process of setting out the bases, specifications and instructions through whose execution, and whose execution alone, it will be possible to create a state of balance in production, especially in agricultural products which generally are characterized as rapidly perishable and which one must dispose of as soon as possible after they are produced. In the absence of such an agency, and its performance of this effective role, the company's role, whether it is in the public sector or deals in the private sector, becomes difficult because if transactions are made in commodities for export, and these commodities are not subjected to observation, inspection and surveillance and do not have the desired specification, in terms of their quality or in the form they are provided and shipped, they will not be able

to compete in the international context and commerce, whether in the private, public or mixed sector, will be in a difficult situation."

He said, "Agreement has been reached that an independent agency such as this must be established. Perhaps the best and shortest way to establish such an agency is to review the law on the Agricultural Products Marketing Organization at the imposed price so that the segment bearing on transactions will be removed from it, the part bearing on regulation will remain, an addition will be made to it and it will be assigned to a specialized ministerial committee for review and codification, and this agency will start to engage in its activity.

"The fact is that a successful transaction process must be preceded by a successful regulation process, and if we have not succeeded in giving such an agency precedence over the transaction process, we must at least start with it now so that it will keep abreast of the commercial transaction process.

"Second, what is the formula by which the government seeks to intervene in the transaction process itself? The regulation process is a 100 percent governmental one and there is no controversy about that. As regards transactions, to what extent does the government seek to intervene in the free economic system which depends on individual initiative and the innovative effort of the private sector in cooperation with the public sector in Jordan?

"As we have understood it from the discussion, the government does not want to be the principal or only merchant, nor the merchant who seeks to take the market permanently from the private sector. In formulating its intervention, it wants to have a company which will primarily assume charge of two major operations:

"First, regulation of the agricultural process, specifically plant commodities which perish rapidly, so that we will produce what we need; this is a developmental action, since we must not continue to be importers of agricultural commodities we and our farmers can produce locally.

"Second, investigation of the process of creating a balance through transactions; transactions are a developmental notion in the first place. There is a situation which prevails now, and this situation simply can be summarized by the existence of a seasonal surplus in two or three commodities and a shortage in three or four commodities, where we are compelled to import and pay substantial amounts of money. These are commodities which can without any debate be produced locally.

"Therefore, by means of this company, the government is aiming at performing these two developmental operations and there is an element of risk in them. When this company is assigned to remedy surpluses, that means that it should maintain the lowest possible price level for the commodities in which a surplus has come into being, that is, the company should buy these commodities and process or export them to maintain the price structure, so that the commodity may remain profitable and so that, from the social standpoint, we can preserve the sector of people dealing with the land so that they will

continue to farm. This is a developmental goal and in the long range will without the least doubt lead to the realization of profit through an improvement in the production of some types of commodities in which a surplus is realized, such as tomatoes, for example. There are strains which are set aside for processing which have not yet been cultivated on a commercial level; therefore, the company will be assigned to farm them. Some time ago it declared that it would reach contract in advance with farmers to farm these strains, which are distinguished by high productivity, and that it would buy them later at a feasible price preparatory to processing them, and thus the process would be a profitable one from beginning to end, as is the case now, and the developmental aspect of it for its part would become profitable."

Mr 'Abd-al-Qadir said, "We import 186 million dinars' worth of agricultural commodities a year, most of that in the form of grains and fodder; we import about 91 million dinars' worth of grain a year and 43 million dinars' worth of meat and meat products. However, our exports of total agricultural production in the form of vegetables and fruit, which have caused us marketing shortages, do not exceed 40 million dinars.

"Therefore we consider that a disturbance exists in the balance of payments which is not in Jordan's favor, and this disturbance can be remedied by applying the pattern of farming to create equilibrium in the balance of trade and end the bottlenecks it is passing through, which are now concomitant with our agricultural marketing, because most of our attention is focused on fruit and vegetables and the markets have become limited to our commodities. Therefore, it is necessary to review the regulation of this process in a manner which ultimately will serve the interests of the farmer, the land and the balance of payments.

"On this occasion let me cite the poultry industry here as an example of that. We import 75 percent of egg production accessories, and if we add labor the proportion will be 80 percent. We also import 80 percent of meat chicken production accessories. This is an extremely serious matter. Therefore, it is necessary to concentrate on the production regulation process. Let us imagine that for one reason or another the egg and meat poultry sector was not able to import its production accessories -- what will the condition of this sector turn into?"

He added, "We import 43 million dinars' worth of red meat and meat products, fodder and grain, all of which constitutes an amount which could be produced locally.

"In the area of vegetables and fruit, we need about 45,000 tons of potatoes while we produce about 18,000 tons. We need 20,000 tons of onions while we produce only half that quantity. If we reduce the areas which are farmed with commodities that cause us marketing bottlenecks and plant them with commodities in which we need additional production, especially since the climatic conditions allow us to do this, we will reduce these marketing bottlenecks. In any event, we cannot achieve this without setting out encouragement prices so that they can produce these commodities and without setting out incentives which will help the farmers stay on their land and produce these commodities."

Mr Dudin said, "It has become totally clear that the company's responsibility is restricted to serving the farmer. It is to be hoped that we will be able to serve private sector participants. We have found that we cannot tell the private sector 'We can guarantee you some profit in the first years of operations,' because we want to devote the initial years to the service of two things:

"First, food in the country and its production, by concentrating on contracting with farmers for commodities we are now importing.

"Second, intervention in the activity of surpluses which cannot suddenly disappear."

He added, "The Ministry of Agriculture has now started to apply the farming pattern and we will be an arm that helps it in that, since we will deal only with the people who apply this pattern.

"In the first years we will work on this together, but we will not give out absolute promises, and a sort of adventure exists."

He said, "We have found an obvious concern on the part of the government and the prime minister to have the door in the future remain open, primarily to our brother farmers and therefore to the brothers in the commercial sector in general, to aid and participate in the company's activities, when we get close to attaining balance and profitability and when the element of risk becomes irrelevant, or very minor.

"Therefore, some comments which were published in the papers and some comments by well known writers on economics expressed amazement at the company's getting a franchise to become the first and sole company to deal in agricultural commodities, specifically vegetables and fruit which perish rapidly. The fact is that this company, in its overall operations, will not in any way exceed 20 percent of the overall volume of commercial transactions which exist in the country, the company's activity will be restricted to carrying out development activities, and consequently this company will resume orienting itself toward the private sector after a while, when some reasonable balance is achieved and the element of risk which exists now, and to which capital in the private sector is not oriented, disappears. The fact is that the government does not want to entice the private sector.

"Here I would like to point out that the recommendations have stipulated the establishment of a price subsidy fund, and when the company realizes profits these profits will be put in this fund, which will return subsidies to the farmers."

He said, "We hope that there will be coordination between the company and the private sector."

He added, "We are venturing on a partial regulation of the domestic marketing process, which is suffering from amazing chaos, since it happens that some packages are filled with about 30 kilograms of materials, which exposes them to special damage during the process of transportation, repackaging,

shipment to foreign markets and so forth. Therefore, we are working through our presence in the central markets to regulate and oversee the price process so that it can intervene in the event surpluses exist."

He said, "We hope that we will have an activity on the side, which is to take over the operations of sorting and classifying commodities to go into the markets, until the farmer himself becomes able to sort and classify his own production, since the subsequent classification activities will become limited and the packaging process will be in small-sized packages in order to control the element of quality, so that they will be in good condition when they are supplied. This is an aid to the method of proper handling of commodities for domestic consumption and export, and this will create a positive effect for the sector of merchants, middlemen and exporters."

Mr 'Abd-al-Qadir said, "The government is anxious to encourage the agricultural sector which is highly interested in meat production. The recent Agricultural Council decrees included encouragement of the private sector to invest in fodder production by renting government land from the Ministry of Agriculture and raising livestock. We believe that this process does not entail any possibility of loss."

He added, "The government is convinced that this sort of thing will realize profitability, because the prices of grain and fodder will be limited in advance and based on complete economic feasibility studies for such projects. This stresses the government's concern to have the private sector not venture to invest in pure development activities, but to invest on behalf of the country's economic security 'and realize profits through that.'"

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JORDAN

LIVESTOCK EXPERT DESCRIBES NEW PASTURE PROJECT

Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 Aug 85 p 7

[Article: "The Food Situation in Jordan Is below the Recommended Level for Developing Countries"]

[Text] Dr Bassam al-Sakit, director general of the Retirement Fund and chairman of the Trainers' Board of the Jordanian Livestock Resource Development Company, declared that 10,000 donums of Sabha land in the north of the country has been rented out for alfalfa cultivation and conversion to pasture, now that an artesian well has been drilled for irrigation purposes and to provide water for livestock.

He said, "The company has offered a tender for the submission of bids to construct the infrastructure for the protected area which is to be established in Sabha."

He added, "The company will cooperate with the Ministry of Agriculture in administering and developing this project."

Concerning the circumstances in the establishment of this project, Dr al-Sakit said "Following thorough economic and technical studies, a special corporation was established at the beginning of this year to assume the task of developing livestock resources in the country, in view of the urgent need for that. This is the Jordanian Livestock Resource Development Company, with a capital of 1 million Jordanian dinars which was covered in full by the five partners, the Retirement Fund, the General Social Insurance Organization, the Cooperative organization and the Agricultural Lending Organization. In general, the company aspires to develop livestock resources in Jordan in order to meet part of the growing local demand for red meat, of which the average Jordanian per capita consumption is still extremely low."

Average Per Capita Consumption

He said, "With respect to average annual Jordanian per capita consumption of foodstuffs during the seventies, for example, noticeable increases appeared in the consumption of most foodstuffs while the consumption of certain other foodstuffs dropped by varying percentages and quantities. For example, it

should be noted that the average annual per capita consumption of foodstuffs with high food values is tending to increase, since the average consumption of red meat rose by a rate of 33.8 percent, of eggs by 55.6 percent and of fish by 61 percent. In addition, the annual average per capita consumption of milk rose, reaching 55.2 kilograms in the period 1976-81, as compared with 50.2 kilograms during the period 1970-75."

The Food Situation

He added, "In spite of the tangible increase in per capita Jordanian consumption of food products in general and food products with high food value in particular, the food situation in Jordan is still below the recommended level for developing countries, including the Arab countries, of which Jordan is one. According to a breakdown of the average per capita Jordanian share of food energy and proteins, according to plant and animal sources, the average daily share of food energy from vegetable sources comes to about 1,867 kilocalories, while the recommended rate for the developing countries is about 1,936 kilocalories. The average daily per capita Jordanian share of food energy from animal sources comes to 200 kilocalories, while the recommended minimum for developing countries is 264 kilocalories. As regards the per capita Jordanian share of proteins, we find that that is also less than the recommended average for developing countries, since the daily average per capita Jordanian share of proteins comes to about 43 grams from plant sources and 13 grams from animal sources, while the recommended rate totals about 39 grams from plant sources and 17 grams from animal sources.

The Development of Livestock Resources

"Here is where the pressing need to concentrate certain developmental efforts on developing the agricultural sector in general and animal resources in particular stands out. Proceeding from that, this company, the first of whose projects will be to carry out the project to raise al-'Awasi sheep, was established. What is this project and where is it being established? What are its costs and revenues, and what will its benefits be?"

Concerning the goals of the project to produce and improve al-'Awasi sheep, he said that that can be summarized by:

The production of improved ewes for purposes of breeding the al-'Awasi strain and fattening male lambs after they have been weaned to weights of 35 kilograms, rather than slaughtering them as soon as they are weaned as happens now, processing the milk which is surplus to the nursing of the lambs into cheese and relying on the choice of breeding rams to improve strains in the traditional sector by improving flock management while increasing the growing expertise of people working in it.

He added that the project would consist of two units:

The first would be to raise ewes at a rate of 2,000 or 4,000 head and the second to fatten lambs with a productive capacity of 1,088 head starting with the fifth year, at the end of the project, in the case of a breeding flock of 2,000 ewes and a capacity of 2,176 head in the case of a breeding flock of 4,000 ewes.

Capital Costs

Total capital costs are estimated at about 320,000 dinars in the case of 2,000 head of artificially inseminated females and about 528,000 dinars in the case of 4,000 head of artificially inseminated females.

Operating costs in the first case will range from 111,000 to 120,000 dinars when the project is established and from 206,000 to 223,000 dinars when the project is established in the second case.

In view of the recent nature of Jordanian experience in this field, the company founders have decided that the company would start its project by raising 2,000 ewes in the form of local al-'Awasi mothers and 600 ewes in the form of imported Cypriot (Kleos) mothers. The company has received agreement in principle from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Finance to rent it the protected pasture areas belonging to the Ministry of Agriculture.

This is for the establishment of the project units on the areas in the future. However, the project will start at present with the use of the Sabha protected area in al-Mafraq.

When the project is completed, it will provide 25 job opportunities for administrators, technicians and agricultural workers (shepherds).

Commercial Profitability

It is expected that the project's commercial profitability will be reasonable, although the economic and social profitability of the project will be high. As well as being the nucleus for a local base to produce red meat, it will be founded on sound scientific bases and will constitute the connecting link between the personnel working in it and the technical knowledge and expertise to be brought in from areas that have scientific knowledge with long-standing competence in applied practical experience in this field, such as France, Spain, Turkey or Cyprus. What cannot be doubted, as well, is that the technical knowledge and expertise acquired will have additional positive reflections, especially on the upbringing and production of animal resources not just in the project but also in the Jordanian countryside in general, since there will be units in the al-Mafraq, al-Karak and Ma'an areas and consequently it will be very easy to disseminate modern technical methods of raising and producing livestock resources not just in a single geographical area but also in various areas of the Jordanian countryside, especially since this activity has come to rely on scientific bases and is no longer a traditional activity.

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KUWAIT

NOTED JOURNALIST VIEWS ARAB-ISRAELI RELATIONS

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 7-13 Aug 85 pp 65-71

[Interview with Ahmad al-Jarallah by 'Imad-al-Din Adib: "Explosive Interview with Ahmad al-Jarallah"; date and place not specified]

[Text] Ahmad al-Jarallah: he is listed in the press world under the category "dangerous journalist, please do not get too close to him."

The truth is that the editor-in-chief and chief of the Kuwait newspaper, AL-SIYASAH, Arab businessman and possessor of the widest network of economic and political contacts in the Arab Gulf is a "moving mine" on two legs.

His candor is the cause of his dangerousness and his views are the source of his difficulties. His political orientation, which he makes no attempt to hide, is behind the dozens of threats against his life, the most recent of which was the attempt on his life in Kuwait in front of AL-SIYASAH's office a few weeks ago which he survived after emergency surgery.

Arthur Thornton, professor of psychology at New York University, commented on the assassination attempt against U.S. President Ronald Reagan at the hands of John Hinckley by saying that victims who survive assassination attempts may have either of two reactions; the first reaction is to withdraw and go into a shell, avoiding everything that pushed the perpetrators to undertake the attempt; the second reaction is to cross "the line of fear" and be more adamant in one's convictions.

The one who tried to assassinate Reagan was deranged, but the one who tried to kill al-Jarallah was totally sane and knew that he wanted to silence al-Jarallah for good.

When I sat listening to him at his home in a European capital, I realized that al-Jarallah had crossed the line of fear. The moving mine, in the wake of the assassination attempt, had turned into "human dynamite," conveying his views through a direct transmission from his brain to his tongue without going through the internal censor!

Expressing what one believes in these frightful Arab times is a matter the consequence of which one must bear.

We are living in an age which offers a journalist two possibilities: either sell out and remain silent about certain untouchable issues or express his opinions and face the same fate as Dr 'Isam al-Sartawi, who was killed by a bullet, or that of Salim al-Lawzi whose body was mutilated with acid.

First and foremost, I must say that as much as I respect Mr al-Jarallah for his beliefs in his viewpoint, I disagree with him intellectually and politically.

Mr al-Jarallah represents a kind of Gulf capitalist who believes in "practical, pragmatic" solutions to the problems of the time.

Those people, including al-Jarallah, believe in the policy of "interests" and respect for the language of "force."

The influence of the computer and the rule--"this is profitable, therefore I support it; this is unprofitable, therefore I avoid it"--on al-Jarallah has shaped his political thinking.

Israel, as al-Jarallah sees it, is a force almost impossible to defeat for "logical" reasons and "obvious" calculations, therefore "one must come to terms with it," according to his point of view.

The late president, Anwar al-Sadat, according to al-Jarallah's perception, "made his calculations in a proper and sound manner" when he visited occupied Jerusalem.

By this kind of thinking, al-Jarallah is expressing an extreme reaction to the romantic rhetoric which beset national thinking in the fifties and sixties.

The gravity of what al-Jarallah said in this explosive interview, which lasted over 2 hours, springs from the fact that, at first sight, his views seem to be logical, smooth and reasonable.

However, there are three important questions:

First, does reason nullify principled positions?

Second, do correct calculations invalidate the truth?

And third, is the sin of recognizing the status quo without endeavoring to change it not equal to the sin of ignoring the status quo completely?

AL-MAJALLAH, out of its belief in communicating with words rather than with bullets, opened the doors of dialogue and discussion to al-Jarallah's views on the Arab press, the Arab mind, Arab policy and relations with the Israeli enemy.

The following is the full and unabridged text of the interview.

[Question] It is difficult to deal with a man coming out of a very painful experience, that of a struggle between life and death. When you think about

this experience, aside from the personal dimensions, what kind of political analysis or dimension do you arrive at?

[Answer] I always wonder why we take revenge against our enemies through murder and why we settle our conflicts through murder. When we kill an enemy, he ends up dead in his grave and forgotten. But if we fight him and kill him intellectually, he will suffer all his life. Murder by intellect is more merciful in one respect and more painful in another. It is more merciful because we would not have involved ourselves in evil or physical murder but rather in punishment, which is a good thing. When you kill someone with whom you disagree, you kill not only that individual but also his family and his employees. The victim is not only your adversary but also dozens and sometimes hundreds of other people. This is an inhuman act. In war or in battle, the situation is different because you go to the front with the idea that you are going to die.

[Question] Were you aware that your life was in danger?

[Answer] Of course, this was not the first attempt on my life. There have been several other attempts in the past since the seventies. I used to face threats with the idea that the "one who wants to kill does not issue threats, he kills on the spot."

[Question] Do you liken your situation to that of the Czech cartoonist, Shinkel, who drew a person standing on a mountain holding in his hands letters that fell from the mountain peak and echoed bullets? Is this your situation?

[Answer] It is similar to it, (and adding bitterly) but the bullets are many and I cannot understand the language of bullets. I always used to say that anyone who wanted to argue with me should argue with my mind. The one who argued with me this time, however, argued because of insanity. But he ultimately failed and indeed gave me more strength and a new dose of faith in my beliefs. Moreover, I believe that man does not die before his time. What happened, although heinous, will not frighten me.

[Question] There are different opinions about Ahmad al-Jarallah. Some say you are a politician disguised as a journalist, and others say you are a journalist working in politics. A third group says you are a successful businessman who knows how to use journalism and politics to his advantage. Who are you?

[Answer] At the beginning, I was attracted by the glamor of journalism. After some years in this kind of limelight, I encountered opportunities which made me a so-called businessman. A professional in the business of journalism is an industrialist who knows how to establish a profitable, useful and widespread news business. I lived in such climates and as a political writer I had opportunities. There is no doubt that I rode their waves and this is my right as a human being.

[Question] Business in itself is not an accusation. However, when you are a journalist and a businessman, things get mixed up sometimes. When you write, in whose interest do you write?

[Answer] I do not write about the wave I ride. I recognize it and I ride it, that is all there is to it. But if someone comes to you for advice, I explain things to him the way I see them. My political and economic writings are a glimpse at the future and I leave the freedom of decision to the people. Moreover, the work I do, I do alone. I do not represent a group of businessmen nor am I a financial consultant for any company. I represent Ahmad al-Jarallah and do not see that anything I do can hurt anyone. Some financial centers in the U.S. and Western Europe, one day before the economic reports come out, take different directions toward their currency, the dollar. Is this wrong?

[Question] Current events in Kuwait, such as the attempt on your life and the assassination attempt on the Amir of Kuwait, in addition to the bombings and fires, prompt us to ask an important question: What is Kuwait required to do?

[Answer] Kuwait needs strong security, security based on new technology. We are an open society and if we decide to stay that way, we need a kind of security that requires money, effort and enforcement, or we should take the view of other countries where troubles and breaches of security are caused by certain nationalities and therefore Kuwait should keep them out just as other countries do. Those involved in terrorism belong to certain Arab nationalities whose camps are well known and are not ashamed to admit their involvement in terrorism. There is another solution, which is to say that Kuwait should remain an open country, in which case much money should be spent on security, foreign expertise should be sought and modern technology should be applied in this field. Only then can such incidents be curbed.

[Question] Of course you are a publisher, a journalist and a Kuwaiti citizen who is more aware of Kuwaiti concerns. But allow me to disagree with you in that the issue here is not a matter of technology, but rather a political one.

[Answer] There are reports by certain terrorist organizations which claim that Kuwait is the best place for terrorist activities because it is a democratic country where a criminal has a chance to play in a democratic atmosphere and sometimes vindicate himself. Kuwait has a positive law based on the rules of the game.

[Question] What is your vision of the "greater plan" which must be applied in Kuwait?

[Answer] It is what I have already told you, security.

[Question] I am talking about the conspiracy. What is the target of such operations?

[Answer] Kuwait is not the only target. All the countries of the region are a target. Kuwait is only the beginning for when one GCC country is destroyed, it becomes easy to destroy the next one.

[Question] Are you convinced that certain Arab countries are behind events in Kuwait?

[Answer] The executor is Arab. I ask you, what foreigner stands to benefit from what is happening in Kuwait? Is it the U.S., the USSR or Great Britain? What do these countries want from Kuwait? Basically, the executor is Arab, the scheme is Arab and the perpetrators come from Arab countries in cooperation, of course, with countries in the region which stand to benefit from Kuwait's destruction.

[Question] From your point of view as a journalist, do you believe that the new security in Kuwait and the restrictions on the admission of some nationalities, persons and airlines will influence freedom of expression in Kuwait?

[Answer] The picture is not yet clear. However, some people believe that the dosage for democracy in Kuwait is a heavy one, but others believe that the treatment for democracy lies in more democracy. Generally speaking, there is no clear picture of what might happen should Kuwait experience more such incidents.

[Question] With regard to the Arab press, we are living through a period of decline due to a drop in advertisements brought about by economic stagnation in the advertising and commercial markets. We are also experiencing a state of decline in the opinions and thoughts expressed through this press and in some positions of Arab writers. Do you consider this situation a passing state or is this graphic curve at this low standard on the rise?

[Answer] Any newspaper which bases its survival on subsidies cannot stay in business because it cannot convince the people and therefore cannot go on financially. I think that in the current economic circumstances, there is going to be a screening process whereby the fittest will survive. The advertising market, regardless of the degree of the recession, will be sufficient for the survivors. The recession is not that frightful, but there is concern over the wars in the region. There is caution with regard to investment and spending. Therefore, publishers who depend on other countries financially will go bankrupt for several reasons, the most important of which are lack of reader satisfaction and conviction and the loss of financial support from certain countries for two reasons: lack of satisfaction and economic recession.

[Question] I notice that you always talk about non-relative freedom.

[Answer] This is because there is no total freedom and no total independence, at least with regard to the press in Kuwait. Freedom is relative, but it is not the total freedom granted to the British or American press, for example.

[Question] Do you think that the press that depends on "the summer trip and the winter trip to Arab oil countries" to get money will go out of business soon?

[Answer] Things have changed. The Arab people are now able, to a certain extent, to sort out the good and the bad. They know the tendencies of every newspaper and can tell whether ideas are independent or not. Therefore, I believe these newspapers will fold, even the expatriate ones, unless they can follow the special commercial tactic we talked about.

[Question] What about the news we hear about the publication of new newspapers and magazines in Paris and London?

[Answer] We have not seen anything new. It has been nothing but talk for 2 years. Some newspapers are folding. The rage nowadays is blackmail publications which vilify you and present you with a bill the next day. These publications are not frightening because their owners imagine that they are making a profit from blackmail. The blackmail press has become well known and no one trusts it.

[Question] At one time you took upon yourself a great challenge by being the only Arab journalist for a long time to maintain a professional relationship with Anwar al-Sadat after his visit to occupied Jerusalem. When people were boycotting Anwar al-Sadat, you were going to him for talks and interviews. Are you the one who separates professional positions from political positions?

[Answer] With regard to Anwar al-Sadat, I was convinced by what he did as a politician. AL-SIYASAH newspaper, however, had employees who were against al-Sadat. They wrote about him and accused him of treason. When I met with al-Sadat, he used to say to me: "Ahmad, you are vilifying me in your newspaper." I used to tell him: "Mr President, AL-SIYASAH newspaper is not your property." I also used to tell him: "AL-SIYASAH newspaper has Ahmad al-Jarallah who is convinced by what you did and the rest who are not convinced." He finally accepted the fact that this newspaper was not Egyptian and only its editor-in-chief was convinced of his policy. He was convinced that my acceptance of al-Sadat was not that of an agent but the result of political calculations that have ultimately proven to be correct. In the media business, what you lose today you can win tomorrow.

[Question] Can you explain what was right in al-Sadat's policy?

[Answer] Is the Arab world ready to fight Israel (namely America)? The answer is that we will not be able to fight it. Our war with it will bring nothing but more gains for Israel. This is what happened in Lebanon while Egypt got Sinai and Sinai's oil worth \$1 billion a year, regained its land, calmed things down from a military standpoint and started building its domestic front. One more thing, we want to throw Israel into the sea, but when? When we are strong? When we as Arabs attain the same status in the U.S. and the USSR as the Israelis who have had an ideology since 1890 and have followed this ideology? What ideology have we followed? The Israelis rule America. When we reach the point they have reached, when we are able to move U.S. public opinion against the presidency and decide what the foreign ministry in the USSR should do and when Arab diplomacy attains this level, the Arabs will be able to decide what the next step should be.

Al-Sadat had a theory which I think is right. It says that nothing can kill Israel except peace. When you declare peace with Israel, it means you have killed it in the sense that it will not be able to expand in the Arab world every 10 years, as it is doing now, and American aid will stop. Peace opens domestic conflict fronts in Israel. Peace kills Israel. What has Israel achieved from its peace with Egypt? Recognition? The whole world has recognized it, so what can it gain from Egypt's recognition? The Israeli ambassador to

Cairo is sitting chasing away flies and no one visits him. What has Israel exported to Egypt? Does it not have any goods it can export? If Egypt wants to buy weapons and technology, will it buy them from Israel? I do not think so. It will buy them from Japan, America and the Soviet Union. Egypt regained part of its economy through its peace with Israel while others lost Lebanon.

As for al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem, I, as a media man, believe this is the only way to open the Palestinian file and say to the rising generation and the little people in America and Europe that Israel was created in 1948. The belief in America and these countries is that Israel has existed for 2,000 years and the Arabs are the aggressors and the murderers. Al-Sadat's visit opened Israel's file. What is Israel? This we could not have achieved for any amount of money. This visit provided a clear picture to world public opinion that the Arabs want peace. Deep down, we feel that our rights have been suppressed, but how do we declare that? We must tell the peoples that our rights have been suppressed and we must convince the world of that. Al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem declared that Israel was created in 1948 when it entered the Arab world and killed its people. Al-Sadat had a bad side and made unacceptable calculations, but this does not mean everything he did was bad. I, for instance, was against his revilement of the Arab world and I told him in one encounter: "Absorb the Arab reaction and do not respond to it until feelings calm down and people realize that what you did was right." He was not convinced and firmly believed that he had to respond. I disagreed with him on this and, in my last meeting with him, felt uncomfortable talking with him.

[Question] Let me disagree with you on one point. First, if acceptance of the status quo is considered a kind of pragmatism, let us go back to the pragmatic school of thinking. If pragmatism means acceptance of Hitler as the strongest force during World War II, America and Europe should have accepted and submitted to the Nazi way of thinking. I think the greatest crisis facing us is that, instead of looking for a solution from within, we try to find it outside. I think the basic problem facing the Arabs is that the Arab world is incapable of facing Israel on an equal civilizational footing. Solving the problem through a peace treaty with Israel will not stop the civilizational conflict with it. You enumerated the gains Egypt acquired from Anwar al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem, so let me enumerate for you the losses on the Egyptian side: Egypt lost Arab economic support and became like one of the Moon Islands because it detached itself from its Arab environment, thus becoming an Egypt of borders instead of an Egypt with a role. It gave Israel the opportunity to achieve what it had been unable to achieve had Egypt been playing a role, including the occupation of Lebanon and the strikes against the PLO. All this would not have happened had the Egyptian role been present. Let us go back to an important role in the interview: we wonder whether we are going to keep on waiting for the unknown. We are not against the idea of having a temporary truce with Israel, but even temporary truces have provisions. What al-Sadat did was to play by himself and he went there carrying elements of weakness. Al-Sadat went to Jerusalem because of the world, pan-Arab and local elements of weakness and he who sits at the negotiating table from a position of weakness gets a weak agreement.

(Al-Jarallah lighted his 10th, or perhaps 20th, cigarette and said:)

[Answer] In 1948, there was a leader by the name of 'Abd-al-'Aziz Ibn Saud, king of Saudi Arabia. The Arab countries met to enter the war on the Palestinian side. Abd-al-'Aziz Ibn Saud's idea was to let the Palestinians fight and not interfere as Arab regimes. They rejected his point of view, saying: We must go in and can get Palestine back in 5 days. The result was the establishment of Israel, while had the Arab world actually supported the Palestinians and let them fight the "Haganah" way, Israel would not have been able to expand. What I mean to say is that all the Western countries recognized Hitler's power. Only America did not, so it intervened and altered the calculations. This is because America is a superpower. In the Arab world, which superpower is supporting us? Israel has America on its side as a loyal friend. In 1973, Kissinger told al-Sadat: "America will not allow its armies to be defeated." This was on the third day of the battle. I say the Palestinian question must be solved by the Palestinians with Arab support. They are the ones who should fight and this war must be from within. Otherwise, the war will turn into a war of orders, an unbalanced war because Israel has America on its side and we have no one. The Arab countries today do not have one order, one ideology or one stand, but rather several orders and ideologies. If they were one force, things would be different. That is why I agreed with al-Sadat's theory that Israel can be killed by peace. Peace will be achieved and the Arab countries will grow stronger not only militarily but also in popular support. We must strengthen our peoples and change their way of thinking to attain quality, not quantity. We in the Arab world have 100 million inhabitants today, 60 percent of whom are women. Our social situation so far does not allow women the same status as their counterparts in Israel. Hence, 60 to 70 percent of the population is paralyzed, in addition to children and old people. Who is left out of this 100 million? The Arabs have several orders that are at odds with each other and therefore wage wars against each other. Furthermore, you raise the issue of Egypt getting Arab economic support. Egypt did not receive Arab economic support.

[Question] What about the \$16 billion?

[Answer] That was during 'Abd-al-Nasir's time.

[Question] No, this persisted in al-Sadat's days.

[Answer] No, this is not true. The Arab world did not give Egypt a single fils and I take responsibility for this statement. They used to reimburse Egypt for the Suez Canal revenues [lost as a result of its closure] and this has stopped. Allow me to talk openly. Today America is giving Egypt \$3.5 billion for nothing in return, so al-Sadat became an American agent. Dear brother, America and the Western colonial powers have milked the Arab world and Arab oil. Some countries make payments to America but are not able to become agents although they hope to establish relations with it. Egypt did not take one fils from the Arab world. On the contrary, when Egypt was offered \$4 billion at the Baghdad conference to abrogate the Camp David accords, al-Sadat refused because when Egypt used to ask for help, the Arab world did not give it although Egypt was the one who made the 1973 war, destroying the Israelis and regaining its

status. As for the Arab world becoming weak in the wake of the Camp David accords and Egypt's departure, what you said is not true because the Arab world used to boast of its strength. Moreover, many Arab fronts used to fight Egypt's role before al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. Now they remember Egypt, its role and its power. Furthermore, Egypt is not a front with the same weight as the Jordanian and Syrian fronts with regard to the Palestinian question.

Jordan and Syria's role in the Palestinian question is more important than Egypt's role in view of its geographic location. Also, the Palestinians themselves, in their battle with Israel, did not follow the effective line for regaining their land as did the Algerians, the Vietnamese or even the Lebanese in the south to get Israel out. The Palestinians should have been aroused internally. But when a Palestinian stays at a first-class hotel claiming a desire to liberate Palestine, this becomes a war of hotels and not a war of trenches. And when a Palestinian sits in al-Hamrah Street in Beirut and tells you after his disagreement with Algiers or Baghdad that the road to Palestine goes through Algiers, how can that be? Explain it to me! Unfortunately, the Palestinians themselves are divided into 600 fronts and the organizations have fought among themselves and have destroyed their weapons in Lebanon.

Therefore, when I say al-Sadat's theory was right, I say it with conviction. We may differ on the person of al-Sadat and on the fact that some of his calculations were inaccurate, but the theory on which he built his visit to Jerusalem and Camp David was a good theory.

[Question] Do you think that your political stand with regard to al-Sadat is a clear and appropriate explanation of the personality of a businessman who stands to benefit economically from peace?

[Answer] No, I am convinced that peace kills Israel. If you go back to the memoirs of former Israeli prime minister Levi Eshkol, you find the following statement by him: "We are happy with the Arab world. Every 10 years we occupy new territory and wage a war which brings them to the negotiating table to negotiate for the new land, forgetting what we had already taken." When you stop Israel from doing this and direct your attention to building the Arab internal front, you strengthen the people from the civilizational, health, construction and intellectual standpoints with regard to their ties with the outside world. This can help change the image the West has of the Arabs and can unify the Arab diplomatic initiative. You cannot forget the outside. The outside supported Israel and if our war were with Israel alone, we would have thrown it not into the sea but into the Indian Ocean. But the world is fighting us: the Dutch who support Israel and send it weapons from their bases, and the Americans who send it their food. The one fighting us is the German who is suffering from the Hitler complex and wants to atone for it at our expense. The one fighting us is Israeli diplomacy which has infiltrated every corner of the world, including the Soviet Union.

[Question] You are moving between two points: the weakness of the Arab player and the strength of the Israeli player backed by foreign players on the one hand and the rules of the game on the other. The rules of the game are that "if someone captures your land, you stand against him and his supporters."

[Answer] Had the Arab world been united, that is, had one front and one war when al-Sadat decided to go to Jerusalem, I could have disagreed with al-Sadat and said "no." Had al-Sadat told them "mine is a war of liberation, not instigation, so give me the Iraqi army, the Kuwaiti army and the Syrian army," would the Arab world have complied? Had they all complied and their armies marched together, things would have been different.

[Question] But you still hold the view, as a journalist, publisher and businessman, that dealing with the status quo should be through its adoption and recognition and not by changing it.

[Answer] We have recognized the status quo. The whole Arab world has recognized the status quo and Israel. Resolution 242, which means recognition of Israel, has been accepted by the Arab world. We have recognized every country's right to live. In other words, we have recognized Israel's right to exist and go on. The only difference was over the exchange of diplomatic representatives. But Israel's recognition has been an fait accompli through Resolutions 242 and 338. I am from this school. I say Israel is here and the world supports it. In order for me to convince the world that Israel's actions are wrong, I have to be backed by a force that can help me regain my rights.

[Question] I still insist that the computer mentality, the mentality of a businessman who adds and subtracts to arrive at a result that says "interest dictates dealing with Israel," is totally wrong.

[Answer] I am not saying that the theory is built on "business." I am saying that Israel does exist and that if I want to eliminate it, I have two ways: either instigate the Palestinians living inside it against it, even if they have to use sticks, or to have, in the Arab world, diplomatic and economic power to regain your rights. Without these two things, it cannot be done.

[Question] You believe in al-Sadat's visit to Israel. Are you, a publisher, journalist and editor-in-chief of one of the most important Arab publications, ready to go to Israel?

[Answer] My country's laws forbid me from going to Israel on the grounds that it is a hostile country. However, if the laws allowed it, it would be a different story. But there is a difference: Do I go to visit Israel or the occupied territory? If we still admit that this is our land and it is occupied, the visit is possible. There are Palestinians in Kuwait who go to Israel and return.

[Question] If you were in a European city and an Israeli journalist came to interview you, would you meet with him?

[Answer] I told you my country's laws do not allow it.

[Question] What if they did?

[Answer] If they did, I would meet with him.

[Question] Therefore, you believe that dealing with a person who carries an Israeli passport and sanctions his country's occupation of other people's territory from the sea to the river is possible? The question is, are you ready to sit and talk with a person who thinks that way?

[Answer] Yes, but my meeting with him will stipulate the nature of the dialogue. I would tell him: "Look here, brother, you are sitting on land which belongs to me." I can meet with him, but do not have to agree with him.

[Question] Do you think it is possible to change Israel intellectually through dialogue?

[Answer] I have noticed that in Israel reverse emigration is on the rise. It is said that 80,000 Jews (this dialogue took place prior to Soviet permission to Jews to emigrate to Israel) have left Israel because of the economic crisis and the uncertain future. The Israeli dream covered the area from the Euphrates to the Nile. I think that Camp David exposed them and made this dream difficult to realize. Egypt did not gain much from Camp David but certain Arab countries did. If Israel would comply with America's request for flexibility, two Arab countries would sign a new Camp David. Had Israel recognized Resolution 242, two Arab countries would have signed an agreement similar to Camp David because the confrontation countries have recognized Resolution 242.

[Question] Following the attempt on your life, do you feel any fear or get the feeling that you pen is like the gun that shot you when you started to write?

[Answer] I am a man who believes in God and in the fact that a man does not die before his time. Therefore, this incident will not affect me. The only thing that frightened me was to become disabled, but God Almighty watched over me. Of course I am careful now, but I am not afraid because I trust my convictions.

[Question] Do you know deep in your heart who tried to kill you and why?

[Answer] Of course.

[Question] Will you avoid the same elements that led to this incident?

[Answer] I think what happened will not change my belief in the things I put forth, whether they touch the side that tried to assassinate or not.

[Question] Did you at any time, as Ahmad al-Jarallah the businessman, go into anything you wrote about?

[Answer] Not exactly, although I do not vindicate myself totally, but not to the degree of achieving certain interests. As I have already told you, the economic side is far from being involved in journalism. However, as I have already told you, the information I have helps me manage the financial aspect.

[Question] To be very frank, have you ever been rewarded for any journalistic action?

[Answer] I have, but not financially. It was in the form of appreciation and respect. I stood with al-Sadat but what did he offer me? The shah of Iran was my friend at one time and today the Iranian revolution is against me because I am with Iraq. But I challenge anyone to say that I received anything from the shah of Iran. The files are available. On the contrary, I used to pay my own hotel bills and refused the offers of accommodations.

[Box on p 69]

Ahmad al-Jarallah

Ahmad al-Jarallah (45 years old) owns four newspapers: AL-SIYASAH, a daily, MIR-AH AL-UMMAH, AL-HADAF and THE ARAB TIMES, which is published in English. He is considered one of the most famous Arab journalists.

He is married and has four children: Muna, 22; Mash'al, 17; Shadha, 17; and Saddam, 2.

He began his journalistic career a quarter of a century ago as an editor for the Kuwaiti newspaper, AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM, then moved to become chief of the local news department and worked his way up to editor-in-chief.

He established AL-SIYASAH in 1967, causing a stir in press circles.

He has been subjected to several assassination threats by some radical Palestinian elements because of his support of the peace initiative, particularly in view of his being the first Arab journalist to interview the late president Anwar al-Sadat following his trip to Jerusalem.

He has conducted press interviews with most of the world's presidents and leaders and this year received the Mustafa and 'Ali Amin Prize for press interviews.

12502

CSO: 4404/430

KUWAIT

GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO RESCUE INVESTMENT GROUP CRITICIZED

Kuwait AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 3 Jul 85 pp 22-23

[Article by Muhammad al-'Awadi: "Does Kuwaiti Real Estate Investment Group Deserve 42 Million Dinars of Public Monies?"]

[Text] The press has recently referred to the financial problem encountered by the Kuwaiti Real Estate Development Group and to the possibility of government intervention to rescue the said firm.

The group's problem lies in its inability to repay the debts it owes, estimated by some people at 100 million dinars and including the loans assessed on the basis of U.S. dollars. This bad situation is a natural result of the activities of the firm which has deviated from its original objective of good investments and embroiled itself in quick-profit activities embodied in al-Manakh Market speculation and in stocks and real estate in Kuwait. These are activities that are not included in the objectives behind the founding of the firm.

The group's 1984 budget figures, which are expected to be approved by the group's general assembly on 24 June 1985, indicate that the firm's assets amounted to 118 million Kuwaiti dinars (compared to 146 million in 1983) and that its liabilities amounted to 113 million Kuwaiti dinars (compared to 108 million in 1983). This means that the shareholders' rights dropped from 38 million Kuwaiti dinars in 1983 to nearly 5.8 million Kuwaiti dinars in 1984 as a result of the likely loss of nearly 32 million Kuwaiti dinars in 1984 (compared to a profit of 800,000 dinars in 1983). This means that if the group tried to repay its debts in full today, it may not be able to find enough funds to repay the lenders fully, especially if we take into consideration the difficulty of liquidating fixed and non-fixed assets pertaining to the Kuwaiti stock market and to the Kuwaiti and Arab real estate markets.

Solution

Proceeding on the basis of this situation, the firm has begun negotiations to reschedule its debts. However, the banks have insisted on three points:

First, immediate payment of 40 percent of the loan's value.

Second, the addition of 10 million Kuwaiti dinars to the shareholders' rights.

Third, purchase by the government of some real estate and stocks valued at 30 million Kuwaiti dinars.

It seems that the Ministry of Finance, represented by the Public Investment Authority, has agreed to the third point, rejected the first and then modified the first (30 percent instead of 40 percent) and the third (12 million Kuwaiti dinars instead of 10 million) in the hope that the group will be able to stand on its feet again in the medium-to-long range.

This solution's supporters rely on the following arguments:

1. The government owns nearly one-third of the firm directly and more than half of the firm indirectly through organizations tied to the government. Therefore, the collapse of the firm damages Kuwait's financial reputation and the government's reputation in particular, considering that when the loans were given to the firm the government's ownership was taken into consideration.
2. The group's collapse will reflect on the position of the lending banks, especially the local banks, thus contributing to increasing the percentage of their bad debts and affecting their profits.
3. The foreign banks lending in dollars, such as the Chemical Bank, Manufacturers Hanover, Barclays Bank and others, will reconsider loans to the Kuwaiti financial sector and Kuwaiti firms if the government takes a disappointing position toward the lending banks.

Problem to Solution

The other viewpoint believes that the very nature of this solution is a problem because it opens a wide door for a floundering policy. This viewpoint relies on the following arguments:

1. The government's ownership of part of the group does not mean a government guarantee for the borrower and if the government had intended to guarantee the group, it would have issued a letter to the effect and the interest margin would have dropped from 1 and 1/8 percent to 1/8 percent.
2. The real estate and stocks expected to be purchased are priced at more than their current market value and this is tantamount to squandering public money.
3. The lending banks had taken into consideration the government's non-support for the group at the time of lending and reflected this awareness in the interest margin.
4. It is time for the lending banks to shoulder the responsibility for their decisions.
5. The reputation of the Kuwaiti financial sector can be preserved through the issuance of a government statement expressing the government's readiness to guarantee the monies of depositors, be they banks or individuals, thus bolstering the confidence in this sector.

6. The government can put pressure on the foreign banks through the deposits it keeps with them.

To sum up, the government did not commit itself (legally) to supporting the group from the start. Therefore, its actions could not constitute a violation of a commitment which does not exist.

Required Position

With respect to both viewpoints, it is our belief that tackling the group's crisis will be a prelude to tackling future crises and it may turn into a precedent to which we will resort whenever a crisis looms in the horizon for a partially or totally government-owned firm, and perhaps even for firms not owned by the government. However, we wish to underline here three important observations:

The first observation pertains to the general approach. What this means is to establish fundamental rules for the government's intervention and support for firms on the verge of collapse, such as commitment to minimum government ownership in the firm concerned. Let us say, for example, that the government will not interfere in the affairs of a firm in which it does not own more than 7 percent, 25 percent or 45 percent. This is in addition to imposing the condition that the outfits responsible for the firm's conditions be replaced and brought to account, to reexamining the firm's economic feasibility and survivability in accordance with its original objectives, the degree of the possibility of the firm's success after the government's intervention and the manner in which the intervention takes place, such as permitting long-term loans at current commercial prices [interest rates], in an endeavor not to allow the firms with small competitive capability or with no such capability to continue to exist and, finally, to reexamining the economic and strategic benefit of the presence of such a firm to the national economy generally.

The second observation concerns the position vis-a-vis the group. It is our belief that we must make sure of the value of the real estate and stocks to be purchased so that we may not transfer the losses in a masked manner from the group's firm to the pocket of the government and of the Public Governmental Investment Authority. Regarding the proposed solution generally, we must point out that when a public establishment in the Western countries nears bankruptcy in the absence of a legal governmental guarantee, it has been customary for the governments to express their wish to contribute to solving the problem on the condition that the lending banks express their serious intention by relinquishing a certain percentage of their loans in return for government intervention. When the banks act differently, the expected loss (as a result of liquidation) is much bigger than the loss through relinquishment (without liquidation)--as has happened with A.E.G., a Western firm. The rescheduling then takes place. In other words, the banks' concern becomes that of reducing losses.

It is our belief that what has been agreed upon in the case of the group is just a unilateral concession (by the government) without any reduction in the interest margin or any ceding of a part of the loan which is, in fact, negligible.

The third observation concerns the preliminary approval to pay the debts owed to the foreign banks and to throw the burden on the shoulders of the local banks. This in itself is an unjustifiable injustice done the Kuwaiti banks. If the foreign banks are determined to collect their debts, then it is their duty to make some concessions, as we assume the local banks will do. This is normal because we have never heard of any government or any major international firm making a distinction between banks on the issue of rescheduling, especially a distinction favoring the foreign lender. On the contrary, if such a distinction were made, it will ultimately be in the interest of the local lender.

We hope that the day will not come when we will criticize the unstudied rescuing of Kuwaiti firms as we regret today the monies pumped into the stock market by way of the Small Investors Fund.

8494

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KUWAIT

HOUSING POLICY CRITICIZED

Deputies' Observations on Policy

Kuwait AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 3 Jul 85 p 4

[Text] The observations and criticisms expressed by the National Assembly members upon discussion of the Public Housing Authority's budget were tantamount to a parliamentary trial of the government's housing policy.

This policy is still incapable of meeting housing needs. There is the inability to meet the increasing housing demand and the weakness of the Housing Authority's production capacity. The most prominent example in this regard is that the government housing program included in the 1985-90 plan will not, if implemented, meet more than 40 percent of the current demand for housing assistance, amounting to 32,000 applications and with the number increasing annually by an average of no less than 2,000 requests. This forces the citizen to wait for housing for many years during which he cannot secure such housing outside the framework of the state's housing assistance programs because of land "monopolization" and the high price of land.

There is, moreover, a considerable decline in the standards of proper housing and there is poor construction on the part of the contractors because of weak, not to say nonexistent, control by the Housing Authority over these contractors. The Sabah al-Salim housing units are the latest and most evident example of the truth of what we are saying.

Regrettably, the Public Housing Authority has not been able since its establishment more than 10 years ago to offer a fundamental solution to this problem despite its independent budget and its freedom from the controls of the Tenders Committee and despite the flexibility it enjoys in determining the lands to be expropriated by the municipality.

What the citizen expects are a reduction of the waiting time needed to obtain housing and the acquisition of proper housing.

The numerous authorities in charge, from the Higher Housing Council and the Ministry of Housing to the Public Housing Authority, are required to take into consideration what took place in the National Assembly when the Public Housing Authority's budget was discussed. The authority is also required to formulate a complete visualization for solving the housing problem, to exert efforts to

secure the needed financial resources and to find the required lands without confining the housing projects to the city and the suburbs close to it. The authority is further required to prepare proper housing models that are comfortable, spacious and capable of absorbing the future increase of the number of family members living in a unit, taking into consideration the recommendation that the area of a house be no less than 500 square meters.

It is also required that serious efforts be exerted to enhance the authority's production capacity so as to meet the increasing housing demand.

Policy on Trial

Kuwait AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 3 Jul 85 pp 14-15

[Text] The National Assembly considers the budgets of the independent authorities and organizations and the supplementary budgets from the angle of questioning the causes of the flaws and problems in the general conditions and in the service utilities. Despite the deputies' obvious desire for reform in order to safeguard the public monies and insure the citizens' rights, it is to be noted that the remaining period of the session does not provide much of a chance to codify this wish for reform, which requires a lengthy debate and a precise definition of principles. Therefore, despite the importance of the general discussion on the supplementary and independent budgets, this discussion is no more than preparation of the ground for tackling the issues. Many of the deputies are aware of this fact and have pointed it out frankly, stressing that the next session will witness a broader and more specific tackling of the issues and problems pertaining to the citizens' rights and their urgent interests.

The Public Housing Authority's budget has been discussed within this framework. Despite the importance of the housing issue to the citizens and despite the numerous aspects contained in this issue's dossier, time no longer permits the Assembly to do more than put on trial the main tendencies of the current housing policy which has not been able to meet the citizens' demands and to point out a number of general reasons and intrinsic reasons, "both administrative and technical," that have caused the authority to fall short of the aspirations of the deputies who supported its creation in 1975.

Deputy Yusuf al-Mukhlid, the first speaker, raised the issue of a number of national cadres who were compelled to leave work in the authority and faulted the authority for the unjustifiable increase in some of its administrative expenditures.

Deputy Jasim al-'Awn pointed out the availability of the three components, namely money, land and labor, noting that the problem lies in the lack of seriousness on the part of the government as a result of a lack of interest in the citizens' needs. He added that there is a real "Mafia" of big landowners who own vast tracts of land while the authority suffers from the unavailability of areas fit for development. He also noted the influence of the contractors which leads to delaying implementation of the housing projects and called for banning land speculation.

Salih al-Fudalah also noted the contractors' influence, pointing out that the Accounting Bureau stressed that the authority has been lax with them. He called for holding the real estate firms that have obtained state-owned lands at symbolic lease fees to build car parks responsible for the housing problem. Deputy Hadi al-Huwaylah urged the authority to make sure of the soundness and good quality of the construction before delivering the houses so that what happened to the citizens' homes in al-Zahr and al-Jahra' may not recur due to a lack of adequate control over the contractors. The deputy also called for unifying the price, area and level of houses in all the areas and demanded that the current number of Kuwaiti engineers working in the authority be increased, considering that their current number is low and does not exceed 25 percent.

Dr Ahmad al-Khatib reviewed the various phases of the problem since the 1950's, pointing out that the unreasonable manner in which this problem has been tackled without regard for the interests of thousands of citizens has caused the continuation and intensification of the problem. He said that when the Kuwaiti League was formed, the first study it conducted in 1958 concerned the housing problem because "we have been aware of the significance of the problem since that time." He also reviewed the circumstances and motives behind the creation of the authority in 1975, pointing out how the authority has been given special powers in order to contribute to solving the problem and to achieve the objective of providing the citizen with proper housing when he needs it. He added: However, the problem is still intensifying because the public monies are channeled toward the prominent people, as happened when 2 billion were channeled toward solving al-Manakh crisis. As for the common citizens, they are told: We have no land and no monies. This is why the National Assembly must exert serious efforts to solve the problem. The authority has proven that it is not up to the level of the responsibility. Consequently, the time for accounting has come, especially since the housing problem has been at a standstill for 30 years. He called for designating a special meeting in the next session to discuss the problem and to bring to account the officials who stand in the face of solving it because it is unreasonable for the problem to remain unsolved for 30 years.

Dr al-Khatib also pointed out the solutions proposed at an early time and said that the influence of those benefiting from the presence of the problem foiled those solutions.

The solutions included a bill presented to the Assembly in 1963 to set up an independent authority and 'Abdallah al-Nibari's proposal to the 1971 Assembly that the state expropriate the lands between the fourth and sixth circles, a proposal which created a storm among the influential circles which "wanted to slaughter the proposal maker," as if helping the poor is a problem!

Deputy Sami al-Munays said that the objective behind creating the authority was to reduce the time the citizens had to wait for housing, to improve the housing situation and to overcome the bureaucracy of the government's administration. But the waiting period before establishment of the authority, namely 18 years, has been reduced by only 6 years to 12 years. He held the authority responsible for this failure. He also raised the issue of sound implementation and the level of the housing standards, saying that there will be no solution without bringing people to account. Deputy al-Munays also pointed out the fact

that the contractors' workers have been denied their wages for 6 months and wondered what the authority had done vis-a-vis the contractors' behavior.

He added that there are a number of sincere and serious young men who have contributed to developing the authority's work but who have faced problems created by the authority's leadership. Al-Munays called, moreover, for confronting the land "Mafia" and for tackling the authority's problems from within. Deputy Rashid al-Juwaysiri also called for bringing to account the manipulative contractors and all the officials responsible for the continuation of the problem. Deputies Rashid al-Hujaylan and 'Abbas al-Khadari also discussed the manipulation by contractors, with the first saying that the contractors build the houses without foundations, without control and without any accountability and that the government is generous to the merchants but not to people with a limited income. The second deputy said that the contractors who built the houses are big landowners, that they have been exempted from fines at the expense of the citizen and that the value of the exemptions amounts to nearly 40 million dinars. He then listed a number of names of the contravening contracting firms.

Deputy Jasim al-Qutami objected to the revenues and to the authority which has not achieved the objective for which it had been created, saying that the waiting period is still unchanged, that the requests are growing and that the lands are still the same. He said that the flaw is in the mentality which manages these authorities and that "if we had the power, we would order the creation of an independent authority free of all orders from above."

Regarding the Kuwait University budget, the deputies talked of the problems of enrollment and of the need to set up an applied sciences university and to link university education with society's needs through sound planning. They also criticized the domination of some people. In the course of their remarks, the deputies gave the minister of education the opportunity to reexamine the university conditions. Deputy Muhammad al-Murshid noted that the mistakes remain uncorrected despite the warnings by the National Assembly and by the press. He criticized the enrollment policy and wondered about the dimensions of administrative corruption at the university on the basis of the testimony of a number of academicians who are in close touch with the university's situation. He added that the university is not a part of Kuwait and that it is living under intense conflicts that are reflected in the appointments. He urged the new minister to solve the university's problems and to correct the consequences of the former minister's truce with a certain faction and his appointment of this faction's men at the expense of the others. The deputy also urged the minister to separate the university from the "political framework" and to inject the University Council with other elements. Deputy Dr 'Abdallah al-Nufaysi called for generous spending on the university so that it may perform its role toward society. He also criticized the failure to set up a college or institute for petroleum studies. He was supported in this regard by Deputy Jasim al-Qutami who said that the university's tasks include interacting with society, studying its problems and contributing to solving them. Al-Qutami also urged that attention be devoted to applied education.

KUWAIT

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DELEGATES CRITICIZE KPC, OIL MINISTER

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 10 Aug 85 p 28

[Article by Husayn Salamah in Kuwait: "National Assembly Demands the Oil Minister's Head"]

[Text] As the end of the Kuwait National Assembly's current session, the first session of the sixth legislative season, approaches, the assembly finds itself faced with a huge agenda including hundreds of parliamentary questions to be directed to the government, most of them involving accusations of shortcomings, dissipation, negligence or disregard. As I write these lines, there are more than 500 such questions, responses to which have necessitated exhaustive efforts on the part of state ministries and therefore the suspension of some ministerial functions for that reason.

As matters stand, the current National Assembly reminds Kuwaitis of the 1975 assembly, which was dissolved that year, thus suspending Kuwait's parliamentary experiment until 1981 when Kuwait's Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad ordered the resumption of this experiment in order to serve Kuwait's patriotic and national interests. The present assembly has clashed head-on with the government, which has tried its utmost to deal flexibly and calmly with the assembly's determination to set right what the deputies call "defects" in government work and which they hold responsible for the economic problems from which Kuwait is now suffering.

As the end of the current assembly session, which should be on 18 August, nears, the assembly has found itself caught up in agenda articles which ought to be carried over to the next session. At the same time, it has been forced to pass laws pertaining to the independent yearly budgets and the general budget for 1985-86. It had decided to devote all of its sessions for the past 2 weeks to finishing these budgets, and the deputies took advantage of these discussions to raise issues and criticize some of the independent organizations.

The National Assembly intended to make use of the discussions of the budget of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation [KPC] to question Minister of Petroleum and Industry Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-'Azabi, preparatory to calling for a

confidence vote. For this reason, some deputies tried to postpone the discussion of this budget, because Minister al-'Azabi was out of Kuwait, participating in the OPEC ministers' meeting, when the budget of this organization, which he heads, was being discussed. However, Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir asked that the discussion not be postponed, and told the assembly that the government was certain that the oil minister's absence would not affect the course of the budget discussion. He also said that the government, in particular Acting Oil Minister and Acting Minister of Finance and Economy Qasim al-Kharrafi, was prepared to answer the deputies' questions, especially since the finance committee had studied the budget and submitted a report on it. Shaykh Sabah accused the deputies of conniving at something, telling them, "If you want to question the oil minister, you are free to do so, but that falls beyond the scope of the debate on the KPC budget, because the government can answer any questions you may have on it." Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad stressed that the government was not preventing any questioning, and said that one minister had already been questioned, and had been ill-treated in the course of it (meaning Minister of justice and Legal and Administrative Affairs Shaykh Salman al-Du'ayj al-Sabah).

There has been a lengthy conflict between the assembly and the government over this matter. A number of deputies want to call the oil minister to account on many oil matters which fall outside the budget, particularly the purchase of the Santa Fe company, the purchase of some oil tankers, the administrative structure, and other matters. When the subject became very controversial, the assembly voted for a proposal that the discussion be postponed, and the matter was dropped. At the time, some deputies promised that they would request that Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah be questioned during the next parliamentary session.

The KPC budget discussion was very difficult, and those who attended the debate, which lasted about 10 hours, did not think that the budget would pass the assembly. The questions raised by Deputy Hamad al-Jad'an, who is new to the assembly, were based on confirmed information about the purchase of 3 tankers and ships worth US\$21 million, a deal which, he said, was later proven to be of no service to KPC strategy. Al-Jad'an referred to the 16 June cabinet decision forming a committee chaired by the minister of oil and industry to investigate and come up with new ways of creating and strengthening joint investment and oil projects between Kuwait and African, Asian and other countries and to find new markets for Kuwait's crude or refined oil, comparing this decision to the decision forming the committee for the acquisition of the Santa Fe company.

Deputy Muhammad al-Murshid devoted his speech to the need to "Kuwaitize" the KPC's jobs, and directed numerous criticisms at KPC officials.

Deputy Dr 'Abdallah al-Nafisi spoke of the strategic interests of the superpowers, and advised KPC officials to read the first part of the book written by the Iranian students who occupied the American embassy in Teheran in 1979. He said that the documents which these students acquired were very serious, and dealt with the American perception of the Gulf region and the Arabian Peninsula, particularly with respect to oil. Dr al-Nafisi promised to direct

50 questions to the oil minister during the next session. He pointed out that there are 430 employees working at one oil project in Kuwait's Mina' 'Abdallah area, out of a total of 500 employees, including one Kuwaiti of Palestinian origin who had obtained Kuwaiti citizenship. He stressed that these foreign employees include 23 Jews, some of whom wear the Star of David openly while at the beach, and voiced his fear that some of them are spies.

Deputy Dr Ahmad al-Khatib, after referring to the National Assembly's historic role in nationalizing oil and gas, stressed the gravity of the oil situation, and described the policy of some of Kuwait's oil neighbors as being stupid and willful, because they are flooding the world with their debts to America and the Western countries while producing only 10 or 11 million barrels of oil a day. He said, "This policy is a plot against us, perpetrated by officials who can be said to be part of us." He demanded that a stand be taken on oil policy.

After a lengthy discussion, the assembly approved the KPC budget by a majority of 22 deputies and referred it to the government.

It remains for us to say that this year Kuwait's oil revenues are expected to reach 3,472,997,000 Kuwaiti dinars, while last year's revenues amounted to 3,507,772,000 dinars.

8559

CSO: 4404/432

LEBANON

SIDON MILITIA LEADER DISCUSSES CANTONIZATION

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 24 May 85 pp 16-17

[Interview with Mustafa Sa'd, Sidon militia leader, by Raghidah Dargham; date and place not specified]

[Text] Mustafa Sa'd, who has returned to political and organizational work in Sidon and Lebanon, talked about his conception of nationalist work in the present and future, especially in facing the constant Israeli threat to Lebanon and the Arab region.

Sa'd said, "The Forces of Martyr Ma'ruf Sa'd will fight to do away with factionalism and confessionalism in Lebanon, for the unity of Lebanon, which certain powers are attempting to divide and fragment."

Mustafa Sa'd started his remarks by responding to a question dealing with his plans after he returns to Lebanon.

Mustafa Sa'd: We will finish our fight with our brothers-in-arms from the Lebanese people to face the Zionist forces and the powers that emulate them in Lebanon. We will not abandon our political fight, despite the difficulties that we have encountered. And we say quite openly that our struggle is linked to the struggle of the Lebanese nationalist forces.

AL-HAWADITH: Does your return to Lebanon make you fearful, especially since you have personally been the victim of an explosion?

Mustafa Sa'd: My morale and will have become very strong despite the difficult circumstances, and despite the martyrdom of my little girl. We consider her martyrdom the same as the martyrdom of any innocent child in any southern village invaded by Israel. Nothing frightens us - not explosions and not the shelling of airports. There is only one thing that frightens us, and that is the division of Lebanon.

AL-HAWADITH: What role will be played by the Popular Nasirite Organization, which you head, and the National Liberation Army of the Forces of Martyr Ma'ruf Sa'd?

Mustafa Sa'd: We are anxious that the situation not revert to the way it was before the Israeli occupation. The founding of the National Liberation Army of the Forces of Martyr Ma'ruf Sa'd included all the military forces from all the Lebanese nationalist groups, so that the military framework of these forces would allow any group the freedom to operate according to its policy and to organize its cadres. That is something else. The military agenda, on the other hand, is to make it possible to confront Israel and Lebanon's enemies. It is therefore necessary to unite military efforts. Thus, in the mountain, the Popular Liberation Army, Forces of Martyr Kamal Junblatt, has combined all the nationalist groups in the mountain.

AL-HAWADITH: You call for efforts against the confessional and sectarian currents, but what we have in Lebanon, unfortunately, are sectarian organizations and militias that serve these organizations. How do you intend the Forces of Martyr Ma'ruf Sa'd to differ from the militias that operate in Lebanon?

Mustafa Sa'd: Our position is opposed to sectarianism and confessionalism. We were able to endure the effects of the explosion by maintaining the anti-sectarian and anti-confessional position. The Forces of Martyr Ma'ruf Sa'd will fight to eliminate sectarianism and confessionalism from Lebanon, because that will have effects not only on Lebanon, but also on the whole Arab nation.

AL-HAWADITH: There is talk again of cantons, to an alarming extent. In practical terms, what can you do to prevent these cantons from being set up?

Mustafa Sa'd: Everyone knows that Lebanon covers an area of 10,452 sq km. Any canton or any attempt to partition the Christian and Muslim areas will be opposed by all available means. The position of the United Nations also plays a very big role in blocking partition and the system of cantons.

AL-HAWADITH: All the Lebanese groups have been accused of creating cantons. Among all the accusations, there are those who accuse Walid Junblatt and Nabih Birri, with whom you are linked by nationalist cooperation. What is to prevent one of the two from being forced to accept the cantons?

Mustafa Sa'd: Even right now, we have seen, in practical terms, nothing of these proposals. If Walid Junblatt wanted to set up a Druze canton, or a Druze state, he has possibilities on all levels. There are possibilities in the mountain, the security situation is very good, the inhabitants live peaceably and are thriving. If Walid Junblatt had wanted to set up a Druze state, that would already have happened. But the position of Walid Junblatt and the Progressive Socialist Party is against these proposals. Even now, we have not seen anything in Nabih Birri's position indicating that he is leaning toward proposals for cantons at the national level.

AL-HAWADITH: What will happen in the south after the Israeli withdrawal in terms of the distribution of power? Who will take over in the south?

Mustafa Sa'd: We are demanding that the UN forces play a basic role near the border. Now there is the Lebanese army. We played a major role in rejecting

the establishment of checkpoints between the Muslim and Christian areas because we do not want to turn the Sidon area into what happened to Beirut, i.e. eastern and western Beirut. We are for a national Lebanese army that believes in the expulsion of Israel from Lebanese territory, the unity of Lebanon and its development along democratic, Arab lines.

AL-HAWADITH: In your opinion, does such an army exist now, or not?

Mustafa Sa'd: I do not think so.

AL-HAWADITH: So who will take charge of deploying forces in the south, given that you do not believe that the army is adequate as it is now?

Mustafa Sa'd: Let us not forget that there are internal security forces. Even before the Israeli occupation, the internal security forces carried out their duties. The internal security forces must be strengthened with better capabilities and more manpower to enable them to create an atmosphere of calm for the citizens.

AL-HAWADITH: Who, for example, would have responsibility for protecting the Palestinian camps in the Sidon area?

Mustafa Sa'd: Protect them from whom?

AL-HAWADITH: This is what the PLO is demanding.

Mustafa Sa'd: I know that, but I would like to repeat my question: Protect them from whom? As long as the Lebanese Forces, the Phalange, Lahd's army - those with connections with Israel - have left the area, the Palestinian people will live as we live. Does this people want UN forces around the camps?

AL-HAWADITH: Then you do not see any basis for the PLO's demand for protection of the camps by UNIFIL?

Mustafa Sa'd: Who would you protect them from? I think that the PLO is making a big mistake. We consider the security of these camps part of our own security. There is no need for this demand.

AL-HAWADITH: It is said that the armed Palestinian forces have regained their role in the south. What is the armed Palestinian role in the south?

Mustafa Sa'd: The Palestinian people have a presence in the south, and fought with the National Resistance Front in the south and respect the autonomy of the nationalist Lebanese decision-making process. There is no Palestinian military force as is said.

AL-HAWADITH: What about the Christian villages in the Sidon region?

Mustafa Sa'd: We once again liberated the area in which the Lebanese forces allied with Israel were trying to force out the residents, who number approximately 40,000. We returned these residents to the area. We are now in

constant contact with with Christian groups to assure the return of our Christian brothers to their villages - those of our Christian brothers who are not tied to the Israeli plan.

AL-HAWADITH: It is said that the incidents that occurred in Beirut on 20 April and afterward were not an issue involving just the Murabitun, but that Palestinian forces loyal to Yasir 'Arafat also participated in the incidents. Do you agree with this?

Mustafa Sa'd: I think that there are cracks and "shrapnel" for the Murabitun organization from many sides. We think that plans for an Arab capitulation cannot be of any use or contribute anything to the Palestinian issue and the Palestinian people. There is no doubt that there was continuous secret contact between the Lebanese government, i.e. Amin al-Jumayyil and certain groups in the liberation movement Fatah.

AL-HAWADITH: Should Lebanon once again open itself to the Palestinian resistance movement, or should it be limited, in your opinion?

Mustafa Sa'd: We think that our people have suffered a great deal. If the PLO works as a resistance front in the south, then that is a different matter. But some harm has been done, and there have been attempts at gaining control over the Lebanese groups, and that is not acceptable. The struggle of the Lebanese National Resistance Front in the south is a struggle with significance not just for the Lebanese, but for the Arabs and the whole Middle East.

AL-HAWADITH: Now that the areas of the Shuf, the [al-Kharrub] region and Sidon have been opened up to each other, what do you expect to come of the problem of the blockade of Jazzin?

Mustafa Sa'd: Attempts have been made to make the town of Jazzin neutral, but the precondition for the neutralization of Jazzin is the departure of the forces of Anton Lahd and those of the Lebanese Phalange from this town. Then we could all protect and defend Jazzin. This is our position as well as that of the Progressive Socialist Party.

AL-HAWADITH: And if they do not withdraw?

Mustafa Sa'd: If they do not withdraw, then we will try to remove them by force from the Jazzin region and install nationalist Christians with no connections to Lahd, the Lebanese Forces and the Phalange...in their villages and with their possessions.

AL-HAWADITH: How is your Nasirism different from that of Ibrahim Qulaylat? And how does it differ from that of a Sunni leader like Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban?

Mustafa Sa'd: We would have wished that Ibrahim Qulaylat could have been in Beirut with his people and his brothers. We differ from the others in that we do not put things in a sectarian or confessional context. This is clear and well-known by now to everyone. There is no doubt that in Lebanon there are all the sects and confessional groups, and no group can set itself up as the

leader for any confessional group. Things have to be put in a nationalist context. If we do the contrary, we are simply furthering the Israeli plan.

AL-HAWADITH: Have you been in contact with American officials since coming to Boston?

Mustafa Sa'd: My health would not allow that. There was some contact by the State Department with the Lebanese Embassy in Washington, but I said that I would not be able to go to Washington.

AL-HAWADITH: Then you were invited?

Mustafa Sa'd: Just 2 weeks ago.

AL-HAWADITH: You stopped in New York... why did you not find it necessary to stop in Washington?

Mustafa Sa'd: There is no doubt that Washington and American policy are generally responsible for all the actions taken against the Arab people.

AL-HAWADITH: So that is why you decided not to accept the invitation?

Mustafa Sa'd: Of course.

AL-HAWADITH: But Washington plays an important role...

Mustafa Sa'd: We do not deny that, but we are doing what we can to reduce the importance of their role in the Arab world.

AL-HAWADITH: What about the role of the Soviets? Would you like their role to grow in Lebanon?

Mustafa Sa'd: We ask that all international parties who love world peace have an effective role in expelling Israel from Lebanon, preventing the partition of Lebanon and preserving its unity.

AL-HAWADITH: If the Israelis have not completely withdrawn from Lebanese territory, will you call for the withdrawal of the Syrian forces in Lebanon?

Mustafa Sa'd: The Syrian forces are Arab forces that entered Lebanon at the request of the Lebanese government. When we feel that there is a national army that is non-sectarian and for all groups and the Lebanese people, then things will be different, and this will be requested of our Syrian brothers. Then we will thank them for their efforts to preserve the unity of Lebanon, to give military assistance to the Lebanese national front in the south and to assure the departure of Israel.

12727

CSO: 4404/396

LEBANON

MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON OIL SHORTAGES

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 18 May 85 p 34

[Interview with Minister of Industry and Oil Victor Qasir by Ibrahim 'Awadah; date and place not specified]

[Text] The oil "file" has once again been opened in the national unity government and in the Lebanese street as a result of the serious fuel shortage from which the country has been suffering since the middle of last month, and from which it continues to suffer, due to a shortage of gasoline, fuel and heavy oil.

Members of the national unity government differ over the reasons for the repeated oil shortages to which the country has been exposed throughout the years of the Lebanese war, and which became critical at the beginning of the second part of 1985. They also differ over the solutions proposed to deal with the causes of this crisis and its economic and financial ramifications, since the opposition ministers in the government absolutely reject any increase in the price of petroleum products. Furthermore, they hold the previous governments and the armed militias in the eastern sector of Beirut responsible for the substantial losses to the country from the importation and sale of petroleum products in Lebanon at subsidized prices. This time, an accusing finger has even been pointed at the current minister of industry and oil, Victor Qasir, especially by certain labor unions and prominent politicians, giving him the responsibility for the new fuel crisis.

AL-TADAMUN met with the minister of industry and oil, Mr Victor Qasir, and talked with him about the reasons for the fuel crisis, and about the solutions that have been proposed to deal with it. This discussion, during which Minister Qasir insisted on speaking with complete candor, deals with this subject and its various facets.

AL-TADAMUN: A serious fuel shortage has appeared recently, the likes of which Lebanon has rarely seen. Gasoline has disappeared from most areas in Lebanon, despite your repeated announcements that this substance is available in large quantities. So how do you explain this crisis?

Qasir: The crisis took me by surprise, just as it did all Lebanese, because the gasoline that the General Oil Administration releases daily into the

market is in practical terms more than the needs of normal consumption. Every day we deliver close to 3.5 million liters of gasoline, whereas the consumption needs are not more than 2.5 million liters, at the most. This is why the recent gasoline crisis is a surprise for me, since the quantities are available, but they are not reaching the citizen.

Faced with this crisis, the General Oil Administration took steps to examine the reasons for it, and after long and intensive investigations, it was revealed that the gasoline that it delivers does not reach the fuel stations because it is smuggled across the border because fuel prices there are much higher than they are in Lebanon. A can of gasoline in Israel, for example, is close to US \$15, now equivalent to 270 Lebanese pounds, whereas the price of a can of gasoline in Lebanon is 45 pounds. This makes smuggling this substance to neighboring countries appealing and profitable, even if it is at the expense of the Lebanese economy and the Lebanese consumer, as well as at the expense of the Lebanese treasury, which pays 6 billion Lebanese pounds per year to subsidize petroleum products.

AL-TADAMUN: Some people hold you directly responsible for the recent oil crisis, and draw a connection between this crisis and your repeated calls for price increases for the various petroleum products. How do you respond to this kind of accusation?

Qasir: No one can make this kind of accusation against me. Everyone inside and outside the government knows me very well. I am not a political leader, nor part of the armed militia, so I would not try for some personal benefit or a general benefit for the group that I represent. I am just an ordinary person of this people, who feels what they feel, and suffers from and complains about the same things that they do.

I refuse to allow this kind of statement or accusation to be directed against me, especially since the cause for the crisis, as I explained to you, is that gasoline and other subsidized petroleum products, like fuel and heavy oil, are being smuggled out of Lebanon because of the difference in price. It is robbing and looting. The oil tanks are forcibly stolen before they arrive at the Lebanese stations and rerouted across the border. Likewise, large quantities of gasoline are stored in "gardens" the whole length of the Lebanese coast by armed militias after special storage tanks have been set up in these gardens to hold and store the stolen fuel. The story has been revealed and is well known. It seems that the warring militias made an agreement this time to steal gasoline, while the Lebanese treasury has to bear the consequences of these aberrant actions. The losses that the treasury will assume this year from subsidizing petroleum products are about 7 billion Lebanese pounds, or 80 percent of the national budget. Meanwhile the subsidy misses its goal if the subsidized products do not reach the Lebanese and are smuggled to other countries. This is what made me suggest to the cabinet the need to reexamine the prices of petroleum products out of understanding for the Lebanese citizen and out of consideration for the interests of the treasury. From now on, I refuse to be a false witness to what is going on in the oil market, given that the crisis can reappear any day, as long as the price of our oil is cheap compared to the prices in neighboring countries. Practical and objective planning to solve this problem is possible only, and I

mean only, by increasing the price of our oil to the level of the current prices in the neighboring countries. This way we will put an end to the smuggling of petroleum products across the border.

AL-TADAMUN: In light of what you have said, what is the solution to this crisis, in your opinion?

Qasir: Given the continued wave of smuggling of petroleum products across the border, which deprives the Lebanese citizen of these vital substances and imposes enormous, unjustified losses on the treasury, the solution remains to increase prices, i.e. eliminate the subsidy, to allow the state to apply the money it will have saved from the subsidy policy to other areas that are more beneficial to the Lebanese economy. This savings might be applied to supporting the Lebanese pound, which has been in a complicated situation due to the decrease in Lebanon's hard currency reserves, which would lead to an improvement in the Lebanese balance of payments. It would thereby help stimulate the economy. The government could also utilize some of the savings that would be obtained by eliminating the oil subsidy to carry out some vital projects important to the common people, like housing projects, consumer cooperatives and the like.

12727

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SAUDI ARABIA

AMERICAN COMPANIES TO PARTICIPATE IN OFFSET PROGRAM

London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Jul 85 p 4

[Article by al-Sirr Sayyid Ahmad in Riyadh: "Practical Steps To Be Taken After the Pilgrimage Season To Apply Saudi Arabia's Offset Program"]

[Text] Once the Pilgrimage season is over, a series of practical steps are expected to be taken to apply the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Offset Program. The Offset Program is a pilot project adopted by the Ministry of Defense and Aviation, whereby foreign companies which win contracts with the guidance and communications system known as "the Armor of Peace" [Dir' al-Salam] are asked to invest 35 percent of the value of these contracts in development projects within the Kingdom, in partnership with Saudi companies.

Last February an international consortium led by Boeing had won the main contract, worth US\$1.18 billion, while General Electric had won the \$200 million radar contract. As a result, Boeing committed itself to implementing nine Offset Program projects costing more than 3.5 billion Saudi riyals in investments, of which Boeing will provide 350 million riyals over a 10-year period. At the same time, General Electric will implement one project, covering its share of investments in the project to the amount of \$70 million.

In preparation for implementing these projects, Boeing will establish a holding company early next year, composed of itself and the four other American companies in the consortium which won the contract: Westinghouse, ITT, Frank Bessel, and the Computer Worlds company. This holding company, which might have no more than 30 employees, will supervise the implementation of the nine projects, each of which will take the form of an independent company.

Boeing has divided the nine projects into two phases, during the first of which four of the projects will be carried out. All the legal aspects are expected to be completed, the detailed economic studies prepared, and the Saudi companies assigned to these four projects by the end of next year. These projects, which will cost more than 2 billion riyals, were chosen by the companies which originally presented them, and consist of an aircraft maintenance,

repair and support center proposed by Boeing, an advanced electronics center proposed by Westinghouse, a computer systems and services center proposed by Computer Worlds, and a digital electronic communications project proposed by ITT.

Five Projects

The remaining five projects are a helicopter project proposed by Boeing, an energy engineering center proposed by Westinghouse, an applied technology center proposed by Boeing, an advanced life sciences technology project proposed by ITT, and a medical products project proposed by the consortium as a whole and not by any particular company.

The first phase is expected to be completed by February 1989, assuming that the foreign companies invest half their total investments of \$350 million, with the remaining amount, as well as the projects, to come over a 10-year period. The Saudi companies working on each project will provide a sum similar to that put up by the foreign companies. The general financial arrangements for funding these projects are as follows: 35 percent of each project's costs is to be divided equally between the Saudi and the foreign company, 25 percent is to be loans from commercial banks, and 50 percent is to come from the Industrial Development Fund. However, these arrangements can be changed according to each project's circumstances.

This division into two phases is not inflexible, for if the Saudi side wants to participate in one of the second phase projects, that can be arranged. The information which is available indicates that Saudi businessmen and companies want to participate in these projects and have made many contacts for this purpose, since there is no stipulation that the Saudi partner be a general company. In addition, Boeing has assigned a group to prepare studies on additional projects which could be substituted for any one of the nine projects if necessary, and to suggest new and possibly successful projects. So far, this group has drawn up preliminary outlines for five or seven such projects.

As for General Electric's participation in the Offset Program, its project, which will cost from \$100 to \$120 million, involves maintenance and repair of aircraft engines. Saudi Arabian Airlines will contribute 30 percent, the National Industrialization Corporation 15 percent, and the Gulf Investment Organization 5 percent. The Pratt and Whitney Company will go in with General Electric on its share. The Saudi and foreign companies are expected to form a joint company by the end of this year, and the company will begin providing maintenance services within 2 or 3 years. This project will be the first of its kind in the Middle East.

8559

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SAUDI ARABIA

NIC TO PARTICIPATE IN VARIOUS INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS

London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Jul 85 p 4

[Article] "Saudi Arabia's National Industrialization Corporation To Begin Implementing Large-Scale Projects in September"]

[Text] Saudi Arabia's National Industrialization Corporation [NIC] is getting ready to begin an active season this September, when it will put the finishing touches on some projects and complete arrangements and negotiations for other projects.

In September, NIC Board Chairman Dr Mahsun Jalal will go to West Germany to reach a final agreement with a consortium of German companies who will participate in a wire extrusion project on which construction is expected to begin during the first quarter of next year. The Ministry of Industry approved this 157 million Saudi Riyal project last week, and the Arab Investment Corporation, the Gulf Investment Authority, and some Saudi businessmen are expected to be invited to participate in the project. In addition to the companies, the Industrial Development Fund and some foreign financing programs are expected to help finance this project. This announcement was made to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT by Dr Mahsun in a special interview.

The project is projected to consume 50,000 tons of iron, 40,000 tons of which will come from the Saudi Iron and Steel Company (HADEED), part of the Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC), and the other 10,000 tons, which will have special specifications, will come from abroad. Most of the product will go to the local market, although Dr Jalal says that part will be earmarked for export, since NIC strategy is based on finding and developing export markets in order to acquire foreign currency.

The Rubber Derivatives Project

Dr Mahsun also said that the feasibility studies for the rubber derivatives project have been completed, and the project's final costs are estimated at US\$300 million. This project is considered a second-generation petrochemical industry, since the product is used in manufacturing tires. A French consortium will participate in the project, and the final implementation phase, which consists of drawing up designs and tendering bids, is expected to begin by the middle of next year.

Last week the NIC's 10 percent participation in the Arab Company for Automatic Control Systems was also approved. Using products such as control valves and computers, the \$20 million-capital Bahrain-based company will produce control systems for factories, to be used in refineries and the like. The company was originally founded in Bahrain as a joint venture between the Arab Petroleum Investments Company (40 percent), an American company (40 percent), and the Arab Industrial Investment Corporation (20 percent). The company plans to establish two subsidiaries in Saudi Arabia and North Africa. The NIC's role in the Saudi Arabian subsidiary will be clarified during the coming year.

In the food industries field, Dr Mahsun Jalal explained that preliminary studies are under way on the first phases of about 13 projects. An independent, 100 percent Saudi limited company, with the NIC as shareholder, will be formed to concentrate solely on food industries. A specialized office has been assigned to draw up the final detailed studies, expected to be completed after the Pilgrimage, after which steps will be taken to found the company. Dr Mahsun expects that the company will have a capital of 100 million riyals, the NIC contributing 30 to 40 percent of that, and will either take part in existing projects or will enter into new, small-scale projects costing between 10 to 15 million riyals.

Similarly, the NIC has begun talking with foreign companies in Japan, France, West Germany and Spain, and is also planning to send a delegation to Austria, Sweden and Finland in early September to discuss NIC projects with those countries and try to attract foreign investments and technology for them. At present the company is studying about 20 projects in various fields.

A Services Company

Good progress has also been made on the idea of a services company, which will be a 100 percent Saudi company with the NIC contributing 40 percent of its 30 million riyal capital. The idea was first proposed to Saudi businessmen 2 months ago, and the NIC's share, 18 million riyals, is totally covered. The company will concern itself with developing industrial services such as maintenance, product marketing, administration, industrial waste treatment, and so forth. The establishment of this company will likewise begin after the Pilgrimage.

The NIC's commercial registry has been issued by the Commerce Ministry, and thus its corporate and legal identity has been confirmed and the field is open for stockholders to circulate, amalgamate or sell stocks. The NIC was founded with a capital of 600 million riyals, half of which is paid up, and works through the Saudi private sector for the purpose of contributing to the transfer of technology and the diversification of the economic infrastructure via the field of industry.

8559

CSO: 4404/432

AFGHANISTAN

USSR TO OFFER TECHNICAL, FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Kabul ANIS in Dari 1 Jul 85 P 2

/Text/ Yesterday, the protocol regarding investigations pertaining to the feasibility of the execution of the decisions of the fourth session of the permanent economic cooperation commission between the DRA and the USSR was signed at the government Planning Committee. While Sarwar Mangal, deputy prime minister and the head of government Planning Committee, Abdul Ghafar Lakanwal, minister of agriculture and land reform, Mohammad Shah Sorkhabi, minister of irrigation and water resources and other officials of the government Planning Committee were present, the first deputy of the government Planning Committee and deputy of the permanent economic cooperation commission on behalf of the Afghan government and his counterpart from the Soviet Union signed and exchanged the relevant documents.

The Soviet delegation members pertaining to the above-stated commission recently arrived in Kabul and discussed the issues regarding the feasibility of executing the decisions and resolutions of the fourth session of the abovementioned commission with some of the responsible authorities of the pertinent ministries and relevant departments.

Likewise, the delegation visited some of the main joint cooperation projects of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union in the provinces of Kabul, Balkh and Jowzjan and closely studied and investigated the progress of the relevant projects.

The delegation also visited the Jalalabad irrigation complex and the Nangarhar water channels in Nangarhar Province together with Hadeh and Ghaziabad farms and the olive processing plant in that region. The delegation was quite satisfied with the successful progress of the joint cooperation projects of the two countries.

The same source went on to add: Similarly, the above-stated delegation during its stay in Afghanistan discussed the issues pertaining to the continuation of cooperation and expansion of technical and financial assistance of the Soviet Union for the construction and completion of substructural projects outlined in the 5-year joint cooperation plan between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the USSR. Thereafter, the delegation expressed its readiness to hold the fifth session of the Afghan-Soviet Permanent Economic Cooperation Commission in Moscow in the month of August.

The above-stated source added: During the current year with the financial and

technical assistance of the Soviet Union, the operation and execution of 66 different projects will get underway with the direct help of the specialists from the friendly and brotherly country of the Soviet Union. The total aid provided by the Soviet Union during the current year amounts to nearly 150 million dollars which comprises more than 70 percent of total foreign assistance.

12719

CSO: 4665/120 .

AFGHANISTAN

TRADE PROTECTED, ENCOURAGED BY GOVERNMENT

Kabul HEYWAD in Dari 16 Jul 85 p 2

[Text] The trade sector is among the growing and blossoming areas of our national economy, to which the PDPA and the revolutionary government of the DRA have paid additional and overall attention in providing for the needs and interests of the people of our country.

Now, the hands of the profiteering and profit-worshipping merchants, who in the reactionary governing circles of before the revolution inside the country and the Western companies and monopolies that sacrificed the interests of the people and the homeland for their personal interests, have been severed from the trade of our country. Nationalist merchants are under the protection, encouragement and control of the government and the grounds for the progress of their activities have been provided. Special efforts are made day by day to expand foreign and domestic trade as much as possible in the government sector and to expand the trade relations of our country in the bartering areas or the world market of the socialist countries headed by the USSR, which are fully compatible with the interests of our working people. As a result of the attention of the government of the DRA, the foreign trade of the country without the gifts and projects amounted to \$1,680 million in 1363 [21 March 1984-20 March 1985]. This figure shows an increase of 23.6 percent compared to the plan and compared to the past, it shows an impressive change.

Foreign trade in the government sector at the present is more than half of all the foreign trade. This amount during the past year reached \$874 million, which, compared to the total volume of foreign trade of the country, reaches 56 percent.

The Soviet Union, which has provided much help in the area of the development of our country's foreign trade and has provided the necessary facilities for the sound progress of national trade, is one of the great parties of our foreign trade transactions, and has provided much help in providing and procuring the goods

needed by our people and increasing Afghan exports to that country. During the past year, the USSR purchased equipment totalling \$370 million of our export goods. This amount is 56 percent of the total exports of our country. Also, the USSR has provided and exported \$515 million in goods needed by us, which amounts to 57 percent of our imports. Other socialist countries had a 3 percent share in the exports and a 6 percent share in the imports of our country last year.

The strengthening and expansion of the trade relations of our country with the bartering regions or the socialist countries as an important objective is always taken into consideration. In addition, in order to secure the vast interests of the masses of our working people, we have expansive and mutually beneficial relations with developing and capitalist countries. In fact, of the total foreign trade of our country, 44 percent is with developing and capitalist countries.

The figures presented clearly show that the trade of our country is growing and developing rapidly in the interest of the laboring people and achieving a valuable position in the strengthening and growth of the economy of our country.

10,000

CSO: 4665/128

AFGHANISTAN

NATIONAL FATHERLAND FRONT PROVIDING VARIOUS AIDS

Kabul ANIS in Dari 13 Jun 85 p 1

[Text] Organizing the effective work of the national fatherland front councils in the provinces, districts, subdistricts and villages, the places where the majority of the masses live, is very important and effective work must be done for the people.

In this connection, the fruitful and impressive work of the provincial council of the national fatherland front of Ghowr Province, according to a source in the council, is as follows:

Celebrating the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the PDPA, the council provided 81,000 afghanis to the poor people and the survivors of the martyrs of the revolution. Also, more than 100,000 afghanis in land taxes were collected directly by this council from the farmers and delivered to the treasury account.

This source added: A representative of this council was presented to the democratic land and water reform committee to cooperate continuously with the operational groups of land and water reforms. With the cooperation of the representative of this council, during the last quarter of last year and 2 months of this year, more than 200 land ownership deeds were distributed among people with little or no land and more than 1,000 hectares of people's land has been purged.

The source said: A 26-member volunteer group has been formed in the council of the village of Kandiwal to provide every sort of assistance in the distribution of raw materials and to help the families of the martyrs of the revolution and the poor people, always attending to solving their problems and difficulties.

Also, during the first two months of this year, two family arbitration committees have been created in the councils of the areas to serve the families of the city of Chaghcharan and the village of Kandiwal. Through them, more than 20 family quarrels have been resolved.

The source said: A sum of money was provided as aid to the democratic women's organization of Ghowr Province to better celebrate 8 March, international women's day.

In addition, a number of pens, paper, notebooks and textbooks were procured and distributed among the students in the literacy course of the village of Sheykh (Almand).

The source said in conclusion: The provincial council of the national fatherland front of Ghowr has presented a number of its members to the municipality in order to cooperate with the city hall inspection office of this province in controlling the market rates through inspections.

10,000
CSO: 4665/110

AFGHANISTAN

TRADE UNIONS IMPROVING WORKERS LIVES

Kabul ANIS in Dari 16 Jun 85 p 4

[Text] In the Afghan textile factory, 121 combative revolutionary and patriotic workers struggle actively on the production front. The era-creating workers of this factory, by realizing their historical mission with regard to their homeland and revolution, are with all of their power in the trenches to defend the revolution and bravely combat against the reactionary forces who fight to defend the unjust production quota, because they have realized full well that only through the attainment of the goals of the revolution will they be able to benefit from a comfortable and fortunate life.

Nasir Ahmad, a worker in the weaving branch of the Afghan textile factory and the chairman of the trade union of that factory, made the above statements and said to ANIS:

The trade union which was established in 1358 [21 March 1979-20 March 1980] in the Afghan textile factory, like the center for organizing the workers, plays an effective role in improving the workers' lives and raising the production level.

As a result of the cooperation between the trade union and the administration of the factory, the quality of the workers' bread has significantly improved and health services have been provided for workers through health insurance free of charge.

With the help of the administration of the factory and the cooperation of the trade union, literacy courses have been created in the Afghan textile factory and in these courses, more than 80 laborers who were deprived of literacy as a result of the domination of the past cruel, anti-people regimes, are engaged in learning. In order to provide more facilities for the workers, a dining hall has been built in which workers eat their food with peace of mind.

He added: Since some time ago, a record [keeping] system has been devised in the factory on the basis of which workers will benefit

from additional wages in case of increase in their production over the set standards in addition to monthly living expenses.

In order to raise the level of the political awareness of workers, the trade union provides much help. For example, once a week, the officials of the trade union explain the lofty goals of the revolution to the workers.

Active and progressive workers are encouraged and praised by the trade union and the administration. This has been most beneficial in increasing the talents of the workers and raising production levels.

10,000

CSO: 4665/110

AFGHANISTAN

TOILERS LIVING CONDITION IMPROVED

Kabul ANIS in Dari 8 Jul 85 p 2

/Text/ After the victory of the glorious Sawr revolution, in the same way that some fundamental and profound transformations which have occurred in the cultural, social and economic sectors of the country, similarly there has been a noticeable change and development in the lives of the toiling workers of the country. In this regard, we had a conversation with Khajeh Mohammad, a veteran worker of the Sakuk print shop of which a summary will appear below.

The abovementioned individual said: I've been working in the Sakuk print shop for 33 years now and during these years I have seen many ups and downs and I remember very well how in the previous regimes the workers were suppressed and what hardships and oppressions they had to bear. They were not allowed to defend their rights and lived from hand to mouth.

In reality, nobody cared for the workers and in order not to lose their jobs the workers had to grin and bear without saying anything.

Fortunately, with the victory of the glorious Sawr revolution, particularly its new and evolutionary stage, noticeable improvements have been made in the lives of the workers, and in a like fashion through their untiring efforts, the workers try to increase and enhance the level of production since they now know that the result of their efforts does not go to waste and does not fill the pockets of some free-loaders.

He went on to add: As the level of production goes up so does the level of the country's economy and as a result, this development will have a direct effect on the enhancement of the living condition of the workers.

As regards his own work this hard-working toiler explained: I work in the stereotype-plate making of the Sakuk print shop. Our task is to prepare signs for government institutions. For instance, during the first quarter of the current year this shop made the necessary signs for the Afghan-USSR pharmacies and the signs for grand historic assembly were also made by our shop.

During the same period, over 115 percent of the projected plans of our branch were implemented; moreover, during the current year we were able to train new workers and send them to other branches of the print shop. In addition, we have guaranteed to train 15 more workers by the end of the current year.

The abovementioned worker further added: As far as my work is concerned, I always try to make use of discarded or scrap materials and to increase the level of production in our branch.

12719

CSO: 4665/123

AFGHANISTAN

MECHANIZATION HELPING FEED PEOPLE

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 7 Aug 85 p 2

[Text]

Mechanization of agriculture not only reduces the cost of production and raises the quality of the products, but also prevents unnecessary losses of man-power as well. Increases in agricultural production enhance the standard of living of the peasants and meets the demands of the ever-increasing population for food and raw materials.

From the very beginning of the April Revolution, restructuring and fundamental changes in agriculture are the key issues before the party and state, as is mentioned in the Charter of the Party.

Implementation of land and water reforms in the interest of small scale land holders and landless peasants is continuing in the country. This will not only put an end to the centuries long medieval relations which hindered the progress of agriculture.

To be able to cultivate the land the peasants received in the democratic land reforms, the peasants are using agricultural machinery and new met-

hods provided for them by the mechanized stations being established since 1980 in most of the provinces of the country.

On the basis of the technical cooperation between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, from the 456,000-dollar credit of the latter put at the disposal of the Agriculture and Land Reforms Ministry, the credit will be spent on purchasing agricultural machinery including tractors, combines, seeders, seedcleaners, fertilizer application machines, trucks, technical vehicles, and workshops.

Meanwhile, a group of 30 Soviet experts will be working in the mechanized stations.

In addition to the basic mechanized stations in Kabul, Balkh, Baghlan, and Jauzjan, sub-stations are also functioning in Kunduz, Samangan, Ghazni and Farah provinces.

The 1980 onwards, when the mechanized stations were first established the following acreage of land has been under cultivation and were harvested by the stations: in 1980,

12400 hectares, in 1981,
21918 hectares, in 1982
40980 hectares, in 1983
57675 hectares, in 1984,
62398 hectares and from
leasing machinery a sum
of over 82 million Afgh-
anis has been earned.

Based on the joint resolution of the PDPA CC Politburo and Council of Ministers of the DRA, specific directives have been issued to the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reforms for construction of mechanized stations and residential houses for their workers and employees.

The consultative body of the Agriculture and Land Reforms Ministry has drafted work plans for establishing mechanized station up to 1990, and for its realization specific measures have been taken.

Based on this plan, seven new mechanized stations will be established in those provinces where suitable conditions prevail. These stations will be equipped with four hundred tractors and 221 combines with spare parts.

AFGHANISTAN

ARTICLE EXAMINES CONDITIONS OF VARIOUS HOSPITALS

Kabul HAQIQAT-E ENQELAB-E SAWR in Dari 13 Jul 85 pp 1-2

[Text] The issue is improvement. The issue is how to promote the effectiveness of the activities, find the unrecognized resources, and make better use of the existing ones. Revolutionary organization requires such action.

How should the situation with regard to health services be improved and its growth secured as much as possible? The ways and methods for achieving this goal have been explained quite clearly in the joint ratification of the political bureau of the central committee of the PDPA and the council of ministers of the DRA concerning the growth and improvement of health services. The question is, what decisions have started to implement the ratification? At what level are the initiatives of the health establishments to improve health services? How do the administrations of the hospitals and party primary care organizations work? In order to find answers, we visited some of the central hospitals in the city of Kabul.

In our hospitals, there are many fine examples of work, such as the correct treatment of patients and the compassionate behavior of doctors and nurses. The limitations of resources in many instances do not create obstacles in helping people in the suffering moments of need. With the efforts of the medical personnel in our hospitals, especially when the criminal enemies of the revolution expand the circle of the undeclared war against our revolutionary homeland, thousands of human beings regain life, are helped and regain health, this great gift of existence. We must bow to all of these and remember them with appreciation and glory.

However, there are also shortcomings, elementary shortcomings, the elimination of which either require "millions" or long-term projects. We went to the hospitals to understand these shortcomings which are justly criticized by the people and which, in the opinion of the masses, will effect the new phenomenon and

to seek solutions in consultation with the officials of the hospitals and the medical personnel.

Vazir Akbar Khan Hospital

Time, 12:10, Tuesday, 2 July. We visit the emergency service in the hospital. A patient who had had a broken leg and had come to the hospital to have the cast removed was with a group of visitors in the corridor. I asked the patient: How are conditions in the hospital and how have the medical personnel treated you? He said: "It was very good. The doctors are kind. As soon as I came in, they removed my cast and treated me immediately."

But this was not the case in all instances. Next to the emergency service entrance, there was a patient called Haji Jom'eh, who was moaning because of the severe pain in his leg and who continuously asked for treatment.

I asked about his illness. He said: I am a nomad. My name is Haji Jom'eh. I have no acquaintances. From early morning until now, no one has bothered to ask how I am doing. At the time (12:15 pm) the orderly noticed him and hurriedly took him to the emergency service, although he had been brought there at 9 o'clock that morning.

At the third floor of the hospital, next to the room, on both sides of the hall, on the ground and on the benches were patients swarmed with flies. A foul stench filled the hall. One of these patients had fallen into a well and broken his leg. His name was Mohammad Hakim. He said: "At 10 o'clock on Monday, 1 July, I was wounded. They brought me to Jomhuriyyat Hospital and then to Vazir Akbar Khan. By the time it was my turn, it was recess time [and] the doctors left, and the bandaging of my leg was left to today. But no one has asked about me so far." The next day (Wednesday, at 4:30 in the afternoon), we revisited the hospital. The secretary of the party organization also accompanied us. He wanted us to take a picture of a clean room.

(Rooms are not all alike. There are deluxe and good rooms, better free-of-charge rooms and worse rooms.) But we photographed the patients in the hall.

We asked the secretary of the primary care organization about the shortcomings and the lack of equal care. He said: "There are many problems. Come back later and we will talk."

The next day, we went to the office of the party primary care organization, where we met the deputy secretary of the primary care organization.

Comrade deputy secretary, what decisions has the primary care organization taken to achieve the ratifications of the political bureau of the central committee of the PDPA and the council of ministers of the DRA concerning the improvement of health services?

According to the plan, we created a committee to start the work. The committee is formed of experienced doctors and experts and has continuously made studies and discussed the problems with the administration and the primary care organization. The primary care organization also supervises the work through a controlling committee.

It is clear that certain steps have been taken, but the situation has not improved as it should. The patients complain that services are not equal and there is rampant disorder everywhere. In the office of the party organization, we see the following documents.

Letter dated 5 April 1985 by the Ministry of Public Health: "In the free-of-charge section, we have 18 beds in the Vazir Akbar Khan Hospital." But this letter has not been followed up; no response has been made.

Letter dated 28 June 1985 addressed to the administration of the hospital: "The doctor on duty did not show up for duty in the surgery division." And as a result of his absence, what occurred?

Another letter, which we were not allowed to read to the end, was from the party committee of the city of Kabul concerning using connections in hospitalizing patients.

These also show that the party organization is stuck with working on paper and does not play an actual controlling role. The committee has been created, letters are written, and they know the problems, but they do not take the necessary steps. The deputy secretary complained about the shortage of medicine. For example, as an impartial observer but chief of drug storage room told us: "We have sufficient amounts of medicine; we even have enough supplies for six months." But when in room No 26 or the orthopedic section, we spoke with a patient called 'Abdolhalim, he said: "I bought medicine and plaster myself." Who is telling the truth? Chief of drug storage room has so-called documentation concerning the distribution of medicine, special plaster, but the patients claim that they purchase medicine and plaster themselves. Is there "something" else at work or is there a lack of proper organization? One of the officials of the Ministry of Public Health in his investigation of the Vazir Akbar Khan Hospital noticed another fact, which is, the personnel of the hospital do not conserve in the use of surgical equipment, including surgical blade, used in operations by the personnel of the hospital.

Most of this equipment, which can be dried, cared for properly and reused, under present circumstances rust and become useless after one time.

The use of medical equipment, in accordance with scientific standards and with consideration for the existing resources, must be conserved. This is true not only in regards to surgical equipment, but concerning other costly medical equipment.

The occasional negative examples also foreshadow the effects of positive activities. There is need for order, discipline and actual control of affairs. Plans are made to be implemented. Committees are created to improve the work. Otherwise, they only stay as words on paper.

Children's Health Hospital

The children's health hospital is one of the great centers for the treatment of children in our country. It was built with the help of the friendly country of India. The role of this hospital in the treatment of children and the proud generations of tomorrow is great and important.

At 4:30 Wednesday, 3 July, they would not permit us to enter the hospital. We showed the journalist car to the secretary of the primary care organization to allow us to enter, but he said: "Until the director issues permission, I will not allow you to enter the hospital." We went there the next day. Finally, as a different person and not a reporter, we were granted permission. We went to the director of the hospital and asked our questions. We did not find answers to all the questions. Then we visited several of the patients' rooms with the deputy director of nursing. This hospital has the necessary medicine and personnel. But there is a lack of necessary order and proper, compassionate care for the patients.

In the orthopedic service, a six-year-old child was hospitalized. His mother said: "He has been hospitalized for four months. At first, he was not given proper attention and his bones were set crooked. Now, they have to operate again."

In some of the rooms, there are two or three patients in one bed, whereas in the government children's hospital, a little distance from this place, there are plenty of empty beds. There is no coordination between the two hospitals.

From the point of view of hygiene, the hospital was not good, and we could not prepare more material, because the authorities of the hospital would not allow us to investigate further. One thing was clear, which was the weak role of the administration

and the primary party organization in providing security and improving the situation.

Anthony Hospital

At 4:25 on Tuesday, 2 July, we visited Antani Hospital, which is housed in an old building, and some of the problems stem from lack of a proper building for such a hospital. On the same day, all the bedcovers had been changed and cleanliness had also improved, because an official of the Ministry of Public Health had visited it that morning. It becomes clear what the results of such inspections are. With every visit, covers are changed, sheets are changed, the order that should exist every day is established, the entry of visitors is prohibited, and so on. However, constant order in the hospital is necessary for it too, not only during such visits but regularly. The director of Antani Hospital said: "We do not have sufficient personnel. We place various patients with different infectious diseases in one room. Medicine is free of charge, but we do not have sufficient amounts of medicine." Later on, on another visit (Wednesday, 9 July), a patient named Heydar claimed that at 9:30 he had visited the hospital and the person on duty had said: "First, I will have my meal, then I will see you." Upon examination, he was told that he must purchase the serum himself. But at the insistence of the patient and because of the inability to find serum at that hour of the night, they finally gave him the serum [as published].

The deputy in charge of treatment at the Ministry of Public Health said in this regard: "We have told the director of the cadre to complete the personnel of the hospital and upon the request of the hospital, we have provided them with sufficient medicine, especially serums."

Jomhuriyyat Hospital

In visiting this hospital, we found the situation better. But the cooperation of our compatriots in keeping clean and observing the regulations on visiting patients was not observed very well. The situation with regard to emergency services was not good. Emergency patients, especially traffic accident victims who are transferred to the hospital, are left not knowing where to go and are not transferred to the necessary hospitals. The hospital's ambulance is not active. Why?

Meywand Hospital

We went to Meywand Hospital. The building, in general, is in a miserable state. Perhaps one of the reasons is that the building is old. In the dermatology service, Dr Nazari, the director of the service, spoke about the problems and said:

Our main problem is shortage of medicine. Dermatology medicine costs a great deal on the market. It is necessary that dermatology medicine be imported in larger packages.

In general, there is a shortage of covers and sheets in the patients' rooms and even the doctors' and nurses' rooms are short of chairs and desks.

Visitors were sitting with patients without observing the necessary septic and antiseptic measures (necessary health precautions).

The situation in the ear and throat service is somewhat better. Apparently, one can speak of order in this service. Even the doctors in charge claim that complicated and sophisticated operations are carried out in this service. Both in the dermatology service and the ear and throat service, there is a water problem, and some of the bathrooms are out of order.

The supervisor of the hospital believes that many of the problems are due to the repairs [needed] for the hospital building.

Apparently, this seems justifiable but in addition, the problem is that the existing resources are weak and some of the equipment is in the storage rooms. The necessary order for offering health services is not observed. The necessary attention is not paid to the general hygiene of the hospital and no actual overall plan has been made by the responsible administrations to eliminate all the problems.

In the same way, we also visited other hospitals. In the 'Aliabad Hospital, in the surgery section, we faced a somewhat better situation, problems were fewer and the patients had fewer complaints. But in the internal service, there has been no water for six years. The hospital officials are aware of this problem. They have requested water from the University of Kabul, which uses healthy drinking water to irrigate the greenery, but they have received a negative response.

The government children's hospital and Sadri Ebn-e Sina clinic can be mentioned as good hospitals. In general, we did not see major problems or serious shortcomings in these hospitals. The experiences of these hospitals must become widespread. In addition, the officials must pay more attention to improving the health conditions in the hospitals and cooperating with other hospitals in the city.

Even though our observations do not include all aspects of the affairs of hospitals, we have reached certain conclusions. We have several times the necessary resources to offer better health services in all the hospitals than the present conditions indicate. There are many ways to solve the problems of the

hospitals, but they require care, a responsible attitude on the part of the officials, actual control, and serious care.

The administrations of hospitals restrict themselves to writing letters. Actual investigations of the conditions do not take place in most of the hospitals. There are either no plans or, if there are, they remain on paper. In many of the hospitals, much of the medical equipment is left in the storerooms. There are no measures taken to repair it.

The role of the party primary organizations in attending to the demands of the patients and medical personnel, control over the course of affairs, and discussing and finding solutions to problems are not at the necessary level. Bureaucracy is one of the key factors in the weakness of the work. Many emergency duties are delayed. For example, the bureaucracy for the volunteer repairing of a hospital or the building of a clinic takes months. Direct contact between the administrations of hospitals and the central offices of the Ministry of Public Health for solving problems is weak and, for the most part, does not go beyond letters.

Lack of control and inspection factors are a major problem. At the present, serious constant, practical and useful control is very important in improving the work in hospitals.

The concerned officials of the Ministry of Public Health do not agree about the problem of a shortage of medicine in the hospitals, but the hospital officials mostly speak of shortages of medicine.

Not only must they make use of their existing resources, but, by sending health caravans to locations, they must also do their share to improve health services in the provinces as well. Attracting help for the health institutions and creating supervision over the hospitals is another resource that has been overlooked. Many of the institutions are prepared to participate in repairing hospital buildings and eliminating their shortages. If, in the course of investigations, it becomes clear that the director of the Red Crescent is prepared to take responsibility for painting Meywand Hospital and procuring a number of bed covers and blankets and repairing some of the medical equipment for the Ministry of Public Health, such assistance is also possible by some of the other government institutions and persons. The Ministry of Public Health must make utmost use of these resources.

Better organization, a responsible, compassionate attitude in work, control over the affairs, all of these are necessary for hospitals.

AFGHANISTAN

FACILITIES PROVIDED FOR BETTER RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Kabul HAQIQAT-E ENQELAB-E SAWR in Dari 17 Jun 85 p 2

[Text] The creation of the administration of Islamic affairs, which has now been raised to the status of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, explains the deep respect of the party and government of the DRA for the religious beliefs of the Muslim people of our country.

The establishment of the administration of Islamic affairs and the resources that have been provided thereby for better performance of religious ceremonies by our people as well as the expansion of mosques and religious centers indicate that the propaganda of the counterrevolutionaries of Afghanistan stating that "religious ceremonies and their performance are faced with obstacles" and that "Islam is in danger" are shameful lies stemming from imperialist propaganda. The Ministry of Islamic Affairs has thus far provided great services in building mosques and religious centers, assisting the clerics and Koran reciters, and expanding the grounds for the free performance of the religious ceremonies of the people. This shows the correct and essential policy of our party and government regarding this issue. A source in the Ministry of Islamic Affairs said in this regard:

"Following the magnificent and irreversible Sawr revolution, especially its new evolutionary phase, many resources were provided for the performance of religious ceremonies. For example, the administration of Islamic Affairs was created as a result of the progressive policy of the revolutionary party and government and has become a source of valuable services. The appointment of clerics, prayer leaders and preachers in the mosques and providing facilities for them are among these services. During 1360, 1361, and 1362 [21 March 1981-20 March 1984], this office carried out significant services in religious areas.

"Compared to the previous years, [the Ministry of] Islamic Affairs has provided much assistance in building and repairing mosques and religious centers and other services. In the

construction and repair of mosques in the capital and provinces of the country, during 1363 [21 March 1984-20 March 1985], more than 78 million afghanis were spent." The source in [the Ministry of] Islamic Affairs added in this regard: In the mosques of the city of Kabul, 25 prayer niches have been completed and other services will also be provided.

On the whole, regarding the expenditures for the construction, repair, electricity and fuel of mosques during the 1984-85 year, a total of 94 million (afghanis) have been spent. All of this is a part of the progressive and humanitarian policy of the revolutionary party and government towards the traditions of our Muslim people.

For this year and also next year, [the Ministry of] Islamic Affairs has plans underway to be of greater service on higher and loftier levels and it will not hesitate in any self-sacrifice and generosity. [The Ministry of] Islamic Affairs has many resources regarding the critical revolutionary conditions for the propaganda of religious duties and the injunctions of Islam. The party and government made it possible for more accomplishments in this area. PAYAM-E HAQ magazine plays a great role in the achievement of this goal.

The creation of the Loya Jirgah was an important event. Concerning how the Loya Jirgah is evaluated from an Islamic perspective, it must be said that it is the obvious administration for the historical traditions of the people of our country of Afghanistan. These traditions have been common for years and all the problems were resolved through it. The Loya Jirgah respects the wise and beneficial goals of our people. The Koran frequently mentions the value of councils and finding solutions through consultation. The great Prophet of Islam always placed great value on collective solutions to problems and quarrels in the course of Islamic conquests. In major destiny-making issues, the great Prophet of Islam consulted with his companions and experts in solving all problems. He solved problems in this way and they achieved results. What was decided there was put into action and this shows that consultation for the resolution of affairs is fully compatible with the spirit of Islam; resolutions are devised and formed as time and conditions require.

The historical Loya Jirgah, which was established in its true form after the Sawr revolution with the participation of the elected representatives of the people, has been very important and valuable.

Babrak Karmal, the general secretary of the central committee of the PDPA and chairman of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, said in the speech opening the Loya Jirgah:

"Loya Jirghas have always been receptive to the praiseworthy cultural, national, democratic and historical traditions of our country and are fully compatible with the sacred religion of Islam.

"The people of Afghanistan actively, alertly and with full responsibility participate in the life of the society and the government, with the progressive growth of the Loya Jirgah, achieving the highest levels of true democracy, and in all areas of the country, struggling for the construction of the country. The representatives of the Loya Jirgah have an active and significant share in resolving the issues. They explain the righteousness of the magnificent Sawr revolution to all the Muslim people and explain the role of the democratic share of the people in the revolution and the building of the new society."

The Ministry of Islamic Affairs has carried out and is carrying out much work for the propagation of the goals of the Loya Jirgah and the implementation of its decisions.

10,000
CSO: 4665/117

AFGHANISTAN

LITERACY MOVEMENT EXPANDING

Kabul HAQIQAT-E ENQELAB-E SAWR in Dari 24 Jun 85 p 2

[Text] In order to facilitate decision making concerning the escalation of the activities in the area of eliminating illiteracy and encouraging the growth of education in the DRA, a joint session of the national committee on the elimination of illiteracy in the country was held recently, which studied the existing problems concerning the general movement to combat illiteracy.

Under the present conditions, spiritual growth, providing the resources for the progress of culture, and the rapid, directed promotion of compulsory general elementary education and public education are among the most important duties of the PDPA and the government of the DRA. Decree No 28 of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA at the present revolutionary course of the country has clarified the direction of a strong fight to eliminate illiteracy among the million-large masses in terms of methodology for all the party and government organizations and committees.

The social agencies have established the committees for the elimination of illiteracy throughout the country for this great goal and have had positive reports during the time which has passed since the revolution. The result of the activities of the committees on the elimination of illiteracy in 26 provinces, with the cooperation of the collectives of the concerned organizations, has been to make 1,100,000 persons literate.

Last year, 150,000 persons graduated from the literacy courses, which, compared to 1362 [21 March 1983-20 March 1984], shows an increase of 7 percent. This year, as a result of an emergency effort, about 400,000 persons have become literate in more than 20,000 literacy courses.

Educational materials and aid, in such forms as books, notebooks, blackboards, and so on, have been provided through the efforts of the Ministry of Education and the gratuitous assistance of

friendly countries and about 3 million textbooks have been published.

In order to attract and mobilize the masses in the area of literacy through the mass media (television, radio and other audio-visual means), vast publicity is being carried out.

One of the effective methods in literacy is teaching through radio and television, which can be evaluated as a positive gain. For the new teaching procedures, within the framework [jurisdiction] of literacy departments, methodology seminars are devised for official and volunteer teachers to promote this effect method. The direct participation of the people, patriotic clerics, and the heads of the tribes has increased through these groups and meetings to improve the process of this new method.

In the area of the growth of public education in the country, decree No 26 of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA has clarified the method of the task. In this general educational process, preparing the young generation for active, informed and creative work, the goal of which is economic and cultural growth and the promotion of the level of people's living condition, is one of the essential goals of our revolutionary party and government.

In today's conditions, with the deficiencies in education before the revolution, and, on the other hand, terrorism and sabotage by reactionaries and imperialism, which have created numerous problems, the issue of the reconstruction of new, progressive education requires revolutionary action, initiatives and creativity in work and joint operation of all the party and government organizations and social agencies. During the period under discussion, our schools have numbered 1,086, and 18 new schools at a cost of 176 million afghanis have been recently constructed.

The number of kindergartens has increased to 104, and about 646,000 teachers are teaching in public schools.

The pedagogy institute has offered 2,866 schools with master's degrees to the society and about 19,000 teachers of the capital and provinces have received specializations and certificates from the methodology seminars.

Despite all the related organizations and social agencies, the central council of the trade unions, and the provincial committees for eliminating illiteracy, there are deficiencies in regards to the organization and implementation of the affairs involved in the elimination of illiteracy in the country. In evaluating the results of work accomplished in the area of the growth of education and the improvement of literacy affairs in

the country, and in order to make rapid decisions to escalate the activities in the area of the elimination of illiteracy and the improvement of education in the DRA, the full implementation of the ratification of the PDPA and the DRA council of ministers was carried out in a large meeting of the national committee for the elimination of illiteracy and the dimensional growth of education, and the plan for a series of decisions concerning the growth and direction of the work to eliminate the existing deficiencies will result in eliminating the deficiencies in the battle against illiteracy. The related organizations act decisively in regards to their revolutionary social duties in the implementation of this instruction and take clear steps to eliminate the deficiencies. In the wake of the ratification and decrees of the party and government in the area of escalated work to eliminate illiteracy in the country and turn the literacy movement into a general movement, clear decisions are made and the instructions are followed to implement the determined duties.

Towards the expansion of education in the DRA, the concerned organizations make clear decisions and have organized collective work towards their implementation.

The Ministries of Education and Higher and Vocational Education and committees on the elimination of illiteracy, with the generous cooperation of the provincial party committees, the democratic young people's organization of Afghanistan, the national fatherland front and other social agencies, have identified the best experiences resulting from joint work in the area of the elimination of illiteracy and educational affairs and the spread of these experiences in the outlying villages of the country. In this connection, they have organized or are organizing vast propaganda and developmental and educational work for the purpose of increasingly attracting the masses of the people to the literacy courses.

The Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of the Interior of the DRA, by making practical decisions, have expedited the work of eliminating illiteracy in their units and divisions and have commissioned the officers of the armed forces, especially the political employees, to advance literacy courses among soldiers and organize the illiterate people of the location and villages near their headquarters and related divisions. To ensure the effectiveness and quality of the work in the country in the area of eliminating illiteracy, the Ministry of Education of the DRA has been organizing outstanding students of the 10th to the 12th grades of the university and the institutes and the teachers of secondary schools and teacher training institutes in order to advance the teaching of literacy courses. Progressive teachers reward the learners financially and spiritually and have attracted the cooperation of the patriotic clerics and the parents of the students in the area of literacy with positive results. The

identification of illiterate parents through students and encouraging them to come to the literacy courses and organizing private literacy plans and programs for the brothers in the tribes of the boarder areas are among the plans of the Ministry of Education of the DRA.

10,000

CSO: 4665/117

AFGHANISTAN

ARTICLE EXAMINES NEW EDUCATION SYSTEM

Kabul HAQIQAT-E ENQELAB-E SAWR in Dari 27 Jun 85 p 2

[Text] The new educational system which has been devised in the form of a general unit in the new economic and social conditions of today's society exemplifies the cultural policy of the PDPA and the government of the DRA to achieve the general democratic goals for a magnificent and prosperous tomorrow.

Before the revolution, the educational system was devised with consideration for the political rule and the semi-feudal and feudal economic domination which was separate from the needs of the society and the people and served to strengthen the political rule of the oppressive class and depriving the laborer of the gift of education.

Yesterday's system of education preached blind obedience for the sake of the oppressors and feudal lords and trained the laborers to be separate from the social and political system. Students were not trained with a spirit of love of country and interest in work, but were dragged into nihilism. Their initiative and the growth of their artistic, cultural and athletic talents were suppressed and these talents could not be nurtured. Teaching was dogmatic and harsh. Superficial teaching was prevalent in schools. Textbooks lacked scientific and educational content, and the educational system had no connection with production and work.

Scientific plans and programs did not exist. Most of the children of the workers of the country could not go to schools, the grounds for the specialized and ideological growth of teachers on a large scale was not possible and scientific means and books did not exist in libraries. The Sawr revolution and its new evolutionary phase put an end to that situation and planned the growth of a new national and progressive system of education. The PDPA's program of action, the essential principles of the DRA, and Decree Nos 26 and 28 of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA determined the direction of this system.

In the new educational system, educational courses have been devised from elementary to intermediate secondary and complete secondary levels. The content of textbooks has been devised qualitatively in keeping with contemporary scientific and technological advancements. The educational process has decreased in quantity and increased in quality.

The main goal of education in the DRA consists of compulsory general elementary education and general polytechnical and professional education. One of the positive aspects of the new educational system is the establishment of general educational units based on practicality which respond to the social and economic demands and are coordinated in the form of plans and programs in all the teaching and educational institutions in accordance with the principles of leadership.

Now in our country, general education schools, ideological schools, and technical and trade schools grow and develop. The main goal of the educational system in the general education schools consists of instilling a basic understanding of the natural and social sciences, fostering intellectual growth and training students to have a keen awareness of moral and working standards. In the educational system, through practical use, young people become familiar with the gains of the sciences and the basic principles of advanced production and technology.

General education is not based solely on practical work, but also on polytechnical advances. A practical education prepares teachers for acquiring interest in and knowledge of the agricultural, trade and technical areas and improving their skills and creativity.

For the first time, the equality of all the citizens of the country in acquiring knowledge has been secured, with the rejection of racial, national and gender discrimination. The teaching of the children of ethnic groups in their mother language has become one of the educational programs of the country.

Pedagogical committees and councils, the council of young teachers and the teachers' council are among the gains of the new educational system. The teaching of sociology in the schools prepares the students for a scientific world view and the young people understand the process of the evolution of the society and the world.

The educational affairs of the students are regulated and the teaching of military and patriotic subjects nurtures a sense of responsibility in the young people in regards to the society and defending the revolution as well as a spirit of patriotism and internationalism. The creation of profound changes in the area

of education, which have been devised in accordance with the process of the economic, social, political and ideological changes, is also accompanied by certain deficiencies on its course.

These deficiencies were identified on the whole in the ratification dated 3 April 1985 of the political bureau of the central committee of the PDPA and the council of ministers of the DRA in connection with the expansion of education in the DRA. The ways to eliminate them have been projected and concerned officials have been appointed for their implementation.

We believe that with an iron will and with a sense of responsibility with regard to the country and revolution, we will be able to eliminate the problems and deficiencies and create the new schools. As comrade Babrak Karmal, the general secretary of the PDPA and chairman of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, said in the first congress of teachers on 24 May 1980:

"The future schools will have bright rooms equipped with educational tools. The future schools will be advanced by teachers who have lofty goals and who make use of progressive educational principles.

"The future schools will consist of a kind of family of the children of our homeland who will be educated on the basis of the spirit of Islam, dedication to the homeland, service to the people, and irreconcilability with the enemies of the national independence, national rule and territorial integrity of the country as zealous, patriotic, humanitarian revolutionaries with high and progressive characteristics and traits, and as the unyielding enemies of oppression and injustice, enemies of imperialism, Zionism, chauvinism and fascism, enemies of racism and apartheid."

10,000

CSO: 4665/118

AFGHANISTAN

LITERACY EXPANSION MOVEMENT CONTINUES

Kabul HAQIQAT-E ENQELAB-E SAWR in Dari 27 Jun 85 p 4

[Text] In the wake of the progressive and wise policy of the revolutionary party and government, the process of literacy in all the units and divisions of the army continues strongly and has brought valuable results.

At present, in all the institutions, divisions and units of the army, illiterate soldiers study six hours per week in literacy classes. After four semesters, each of which lasts for five months, students receive a certificate and are promoted to a higher rank. In this way, every student becomes literate after two years, acquires the ability to study and better understand the realities of the society.

It must be explained that since 1358 [21 March 1979-20 March 1980], more than 45,034 illiterate soldiers have been studying in 2,933 literacy groups and, upon completing the final semester, have received graduation certificates. Even though by March 1985, the total number of soldiers who succeeded in receiving literacy certificates amounted to more than 67,010 persons, the administration for the propagation of the Ministry of Defense of the DRA has not been content with this achievement and by following the cultural policy of the revolutionary party and government has continuously expanded and escalated in terms of literacy activities and the plan for the total elimination of illiteracy in the units and divisions of the army. The decisions made by this administration in the area of better implementation of the educational goals and programs of the revolutionary party and government have borne fruitful results. We can hope that this process will expand day by day until the complete elimination of illiteracy.

At present, in order to be able to increase the results of the literacy implementation process to the expected level, the propagation administration engages in the following steps: Every month, in the units and divisions of the army, methodology lessons and seminars are carried out in order to exchange

experiences and improve the ability of literacy teachers. The valuable results obtained in the literacy process and its significant experiences and innovations are published in HAQIQAT-E SARBAZ and ORDU. In addition, propaganda sheets and posters are printed and distributed among soldiers, which play a valuable role in attracting the attention of illiterate soldiers. Also, vast propaganda is carried out to interest soldiers in watching literacy programs on television. Soldiers in the units and divisions watch these programs on their television sets and benefit from them. In the party meetings, specific duties are conferred on the secretaries of the primary organizations concerning literacy, the implementation of which will have valuable effects on improving the quality of the literacy process.

The materials needed for students are provided free of charge and placed at their disposal by the related army officials.

It must be pointed out that in advancing the literacy courses, the commanders and political employees of the divisions also actively participate in addition to their main duties. Also, in order to continue the literacy process as successfully as possible, literacy courses are planned for the breaks in combat duties.

10,000

CSO: 4665/118

AFGHANISTAN

LITERACY COURSES INCREASE IN NUMBER

Kabul ANIS in Dari 8 Jul 85 pp 1-2

/Text/ As a result of extensive propagandas regarding the goals of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) and the National Fatherland Front, the Residential Council of Nowabad Qul-Abchekan village of the city of Kabul's second district's National Fatherland Front during the first quarter of the current year has been able to attract 22 people of that community to join the ranks of the National Fatherland Front. The above statement was made by Abdol-Qadir(Kamel), head of the Residential Council of Nowabad Qul-Abchekan village of the city of Kabul's second district. Furthermore, in answer to my first question he stated: As a result of the continual efforts of this council during the first three months of the current year one residential council in the Qul-Abchekan community, one 12-member arbitration board for solving various problems of the people, one family dispute and mediation commission and one counseling commission for students' parents has been created. Moreover, during the same period two literacy courses in which 100 individuals are enrolled also have been created and 20 youths have voluntarily joined the armed forces.

He went on to add: According to the plans, during the first three months of the current year this council was able on three different occasions to mobilize voluntary groups composed of the respected inhabitants of Qul-Abchekan and the workers from Kabul's municipality who undertook the repair work of two water main, the construction of a new water pipeline, cleaning, dredging and draining of waterways, which all in all, saved a lot of money for the government. Additionally, according to the protocol of the city council of the National Fatherland Front with Kabul's Municipality, this council has introduced three of his representatives to the Joint Conservator Control Commission which in turn has accomplished useful and beneficial work during the first three months of the current year.

However, it should be pointed out here that a store which is located in the northern area of the second district, which comes under this council's jurisdiction, has been selling some kind of beverage called Fanta which after laboratory tests by the Ministry of Public Health proved to be unhealthy or unfit for drinking. Although the matter has been brought to the attention of the Inspectorate Office of the Municipality of Kabul, nothing has been done in this matter. Likewise, three other stores in the Aryana marketplace have been using out-dated powdered milk together with unhealthy and unfit water in their dairy products and although this matter has been brought to the attention of the responsible officials of the Inspectorate through the city council of Kabul city's second district National

Fatherland Front as a result of the complaints of the people, yet unfortunately nothing has been done in this regard either.

In answer to another question he said: Through separate private meetings with over 700 individuals, the decrees and decisions of the historic and grand assembly regarding local rules and regulations have been discussed and as a result several individuals on behalf of the inhabitants have expressed their support for the decisions of the grand assembly and the local organ's laws and regulations.

12719
CS0:4665/123

AFGHANISTAN

NEW TEXTBOOKS SAID TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT STUDENTS NEEDS

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 3 Aug 85 p 4

[Text]

Around 400 different kinds of textbooks in over 19 million volumes have been published in the post-revolutionary years and put at the disposal of schools and lycees of the country.

With the victory of the April Revolution spectacular changes have been brought about in economic, social, cultural and political spheres. In the sphere of culture a significant revolutionary change is the setting up of new educational methods. With new reforms in the field of primary and secondary education, based on scientific research, the learning and knowledge of the students would be considerably improved.

In accordance with the research in the field of education and training based on the new changes in educational fields, after completion of the secondary education, students would be acquainted with a basic knowledge of social sciences, history, linguistics, arithmetic technology and other subjects, and would be well

prepared to continue any specialised higher studies.

The new methods in education have underlined the necessity of education of students in their mother tongue. It is with this regard that textbooks of primary education have been written in languages of Pashtu, Dari, Uzbek, Turkmen, and Baluchi.

Starting from the year 1357 (1978) the new method in education was implemented from grade one, which covers upto 7th grade now. However, it is planned to promote this from 8th to 10th classes in the near future.

Saying the above, Jalal Noorani, President of the Publication and Translation Department of the Education Ministry in an interview with a KNT correspondent added "After the victory of the April Revolution some 223 new titles of textbooks with a quantity of 12,882,094 volumes and 175 old titles numbering 6,334,500 volumes have been published.

The new educational system, besides other benefits, takes into account the interest and well-being of the students in their studies, for instance in the first grade the previous 24 hours duration of classes have been reduced to 21 hours. Likewise, in the sixth to eleventh grades 36 hours of classes have been brought down to 32 hours, per week.

The Ministry of Education not only takes into consideration the studies and attainment of knowledge of the pupils but also pays serious attention to the physical training and spiritual well-being of the students. For this reason the Ministry in its framework has established a department of Physical Training which together with the principal of each school appoints most experienced teachers to be responsible for the physical training of the pupils.

Moreover the opening of a large number of schools and lycees during the post-revolutionary years could be counted as a vital achievement of the Ministry.

In conclusion, the president pointed to the vital importance of the fact that presently the sons and daughters of the working people are educated in their mother tongues and are provided with various other publications in their own languages. This was just a dream under past regime.

CSO: 4600/610-E

AFGHANISTAN

LAND REFORM INSTRUMENTAL IN GOVERNMENT STABILITY

Kabul ANIS in Dari 3 Jul 85 p 2

/Text/ As has been mentioned quite clearly in all party and government documents, water and land reform form one of the fundamental duties of our national and democratic revolution. Water and land reforms are not only significant in eliminating and conquering the backwardness which has been brought about as a result of centuries of negligence or fulfilling the happiness of the farmers, but they are also fundamentally important in solidifying and strengthening the position of the government in the various regions of the country.

The fact that water and land reforms help strengthen the government's position in the far corners of the country arises from our new revolutionary system which places considerable importance on awakening the people and keeping them aware of on-going issues. Since water and land reforms relieved the larger farmer sectors from the shackles of the medieval relations with its ensuing poverty, misery and absence of rights and thus enabled them to become more aware of their rightful place in our revolutionary society, therefore it has helped to enhance and strengthen the position of the government in the various areas of the country. While the democratic water and land reforms deprive the obsolete ruling class of the landlords of exploiting the farmers any more, they also play an important role in strengthening and solidifying the government's power in various region of the country.

It is clear that as a result of the revolution a new power base for the government came about. As has been reflected in the action program of the party, the fundamental principles of the DRA and other basic documents of the revolution, this power belongs to all the toiling workers and the sincere children of the nation, and from amongst these come our farmers who form the largest participating power in the revolution and the new revolutionary rulership. Thus, their awareness and sensibility toward their vital interests together with their readiness to participate in the process of progressive transformations and defending the accomplishments of the revolution has undoubtedly helped to increase the government power in various regions and make it invincible and unconquerable by the enemies of eliminating class distinctions.

The enemies of the nation, the people and our revolution with full knowledge of the significant role of the farmers in the rapid revolutionary transformations and strengthening of the pillars of the new social system by the farmers, are constantly trying to discourage and dissuade our farmers in their revolutionary struggles.

They take advantage of the vast battleground of propaganda in order to dissuade our farmers and furthermore they resort to other means of threat and terror in a brutal manner. However, these inhumane and shameful acts cannot stand in the way of our farmers and prevent our nation or the farmers from their struggle toward achievement of their happiness, prosperity and progress.

The Saur revolution has opened the true way for achieving happiness and prosperity to all the toiling workers of the nation. Our farmers have attained the right to use the land and water and enjoy the results of their own hard work and sweat. The land and water have come out of the monopoly of the feudal landlords. They have all become deprived to exploit the farmers. At the present time, water and land reform is gaining progress with the cooperation of all the farmers. This matter has placed our farmers' role on a significantly high order. In addition to make a living from the land and the water, the farmers also learn that they have to defend their land, water and products against the enemies, and in order to be effective they have to mobilize their efforts in the form of joining self-defense groups and other similar organs. It is for this reason that the documents and resolutions of the 14th plenum of the Central Committee pointed out that the formation of various groups and fronts as a result of the revolutionary transformations will gradually encompass the various strata of the farmers in the advancement of the democratic land and water reforms and cooperative movement. Similarly, in the 15th plenum of the Central Committee it was pointed out that the implementation of water and land reform has advanced considerably.

The role of land reform in strengthening the position of the government in various regions and the results thus achieved are quite indisputable. Nothing more than the very life and experience of the years of revolution can substantiate the just and rightful policy of the party and the ideals of the glorious Saur revolution. However, the main point is to put an end to the misery and hardship of the farmers and the toiling workers throughout the cities, towns and villages of the country, and this cannot be done unless the attainment of the goals of the land reform throughout the country is given proper attention and its circle of execution and operation expanded ever more. This cannot be done unless it is done in conjunction with other vital and important revolutionary duties and arming and equipping the revolution with the powerful weapon by freeing the masses of farmers from their shackles and attracting them to the revolution and thus expand the base of a just social system to all the far corners of the land. We also should remember the valuable statement of Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council at the 15th plenum of the party's Central Committee who said that in order to draw and captivate the people's attention to their ever-increasing participation in the implementation of the revolution goals and to defend its achievements to a large degree it depends on how successful the social and economic policies of the party, particularly the execution of the affairs of the land and water reforms plus those of the irrigation and creation of the cooperatives have been.

12719

CSO: 4665/120

AFGHANISTAN

GOVERNMENT'S LAND, WATER REFORM EXPANDING NATIONWIDE

Kabul ANIS in Dari 9 Jul 85 pp 1-2

/Text/ Yesterday morning, 8 July the extended session of the PDPA Central Committee and the Council of Ministers of the DRA was held under the chairmanship of Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council in order to continue the implementation of land and water reform with the participation of the responsible authorities of the party's Central Committee. Under the supervision and control of the land and water reform, implementation in various regions of the country with a view to studying the results of the progress made in 1363 /21 March 1984 - 20 March 1985/ and based on that experience make new decisions for the improvement and betterment of its implementation during the year 1364 /21 March 1985 - 20 March 1986/. It was pointed out in this session that as a result of the decisions of the party and the government, the execution of land and water reform has met with great improvements. The operational groups in charge of implementing land reform, which numbered 45 in 1362 /21 March 1983 - 20 March 1984/, increased to 69 groups in 1363 and they were able to expand their activities to all the regions of the country. The village farmers' councils, which until last year (1363) numbered 423 councils, were able to more effectively engage the farmers in realizing land transformation processes and through the assistance of these councils and as a result of joint work and activities of the party and government organs, in 1363 more than 300,000 acres of land were distributed and 37,000 families' land ownership were settled. This showed an increase of 4.5 percent over the previous year. During the same period, over 45,000 land deeds were distributed, compared to only 11,000 land deeds in 1362.

Last year's great success is manifest in the fact that during that period 10,110 families who had no land or possessed very little land got free land while this figure for 1362 stood only at 310 families. The total area which was thus distributed among these farmers covered an area of 48,000 acres of land or an increase of 8 times over 1362.

As is evident from the figures the execution and implementation condition of land reform during the current year has improved considerably. For instance, during the first two months of the current year twice as many land deeds were distributed as during the same period of the previous year. In a like manner, within the same period 1,561 families received free land while the figures for the same two months of the previous year stood only at 41. Similarly,

farmers' land settlements have increased two fold and the number of farmers' councils have increased to 637.

The above figures indicate that during the years after the revolution a total of 319,538 deserving farmers' families received a total of 688,522 hectares of free land.

The revolution, particularly its new and evolutionary stage has changed our farmers into active participants in the revolutionary transformations and it has taken away the burden of the hardships and sufferings of centuries of ignorance from their shoulders. Extensive and direct participation by the farmers in the process of land transformations have democratized this process considerably and at the same time, it has expanded the social foundations of the revolution.

While emphasizing the positive points of land and water reform, Babrak Karmal during his instructive and prescriptive speech at this session also pointed to the fact that the rapid execution of land reform process under the intensified circumstances of reactionary resistance and the undeclared war by imperialism with the United States at its head--together with obvious collusion of the hegemonist regime of China and the military regime of Pakistan and the reactionary ruling government of Iran all prove and indicate the righteousness of the party's land policy and its complete conformity with the vital interests of the farmers and the growth of the national economy. This fact also proves the active support of the masses for the party's policy and their self-sacrificing participation for the execution and implementation of the revolutionary transformations.

Furthermore, Babrak Karmal stated: We also intend to pursue the policy of attracting extensive masses of farmers in the future, particularly the medium-level farmers from the villages in the land transformation process.

He went on to say: Certainly we cannot take lightly our accomplishments in the implementation and execution of land and water reform which have an undeniable effect and influence on the betterment and improvement of the revolutionary transformations.

This fact has indicated that in taking proper measures and making decisions, our party has depended on the interests, wishes, traditions and favorable customs of the nation; it has profoundly recognized the true determination of the people and has accordingly reflected these wishes with sincerity and patriotism.

Babrak Karmal also added: The resolutions of the people's representatives in the recent historic grand assembly showed that the implementation of the land and water reform is something which is desired by all the people and the farmers.

He continued: However, during the current year we ought to keep in mind the decrees and results of the 15th plenum of the party's Central Committee and the decisions of the grand and national historic assembly which emphasized intensification of a work program for the masses and enhancement of their level of activities in defending the country and the revolution. To this end, proper attention should be paid to the rapid execution of the land and water reform process and unswerving implementation of the party's policy as the principal means for the attraction of the toiling farmers in defending the country and the revolution with a high level of responsibility should be considered.

Babrak Karmal went on to say: Our method and style of approach in the matter of land and water reform implementation should also include the voluntary attraction of the farmers in this process and in the expansion of social foundations of the revolution. Our policy and approach in the land and water reform arena is based on careful interaction, precision and pursuit with due consideration to the voluntary participation and satisfaction of masses of millions of farmers and their constant attention to their needs.

We ought to bring about a logical combination of speed, precision and attention to this process.

Babrak Karmal stated: In the execution of land and water reform we rely on law, legitimacy, respect for the holy religion of Islam, consideration of the customs and traditions and the realization of justice for the farmers. The party and government employees in their interactions with the farmers ought to demonstrate their intense interest for their prosperity and happiness. They ought to treat them with utmost humility or modesty, respect and compassion and a true sense of service. These employees ought to stay away from uttering instigative or provocative matters or babbling so that the farmers can find out for themselves that the party and the people's government are their true and sincere servants.

Babrak Karmal went on to add: The issue of providing water for irrigation and its just distribution along with land is of significance as far as the prosperity and the production growth of the farmers are concerned. Our country has abundant natural resources, especially great water resources for agriculture. In order to properly and completely utilize these great resources, large capital investments are necessary which we have considered in our long-term planning. However, it is our ineludible duty to carry out all the possible work right now, since land reform under the present conditions in our country cannot be considered complete without the provision of water.

Babrak Karmal continued: The rural democratic organs such as the village farmers' councils, farmers' cooperatives and the committees for the users of water can and should attract masses of people, particularly the various

strata of the farmers role in defending the country and the revolution and their participation in the revolutionary transformations should be enhanced. For this purpose it is necessary that these organs improve their activities qualitatively, and they should be changed into patriotic training schools for the large masses of the farmers in their defending the party's policy and the objectives of the revolution.

The very existence of the above-stated organs, especially the village farmers' councils and their ever-increasing popularity in the process of land transformations has in itself been a good example of the significance placed by the party and the new government in the matter of democratizing the process of reform. We've always emphasized that as far as farmers are concerned, the policy of coercion and pressure is not acceptable and they will be considered harmful and detrimental toward the solidarity of the participating powers in the national and democratic revolution. This is a revolution which offers life, happiness, and prosperity to the farmers and this offer contains no coercion, force or violence. Our invitation at this historic stage to the farmers is that they should support the policy of the PDPA and the government of the DRA in the issue of land as their own policy which is but an indicator of their own vital interests, their rightful wishes and their own historical desires, and thus by this support try to enhance their own living conditions, increase their farm production, solidify and strengthen the national economy and defend their farms and products against the brigandish assaults of the counterrevolutionaries.

Babrak Karmal further stated: It is only through active participation in the implementation of the revolutionary transformation that the farmers can expedite attainment of their true happiness and prosperity. Our policy concerning the farmers is one of justice and fully compatible with the principles of the Islamic religion and quite legitimate. Once more we announce that it is the lawful and natural right of all the farmers to have land and that the revolutionary government guarantees complete protection of this right. To this end, the distribution of official land deeds constitutes one of the important parts of the land and water reform program at the present stage. According to the fundamental principles of the DRA, we officially recognize and protect the right of ownership to land by the farmers. The land can be sold by the rightful owner or left as inheritance.

Babrak Karmal added: Provision of technical and material assistance to the farmers in an effort to attract their interest toward revolution is of great significance. People do not fall for empty or bombastic promises, and they tend to judge matters according to their practical experience. As we all know, during the years after the victory of the revolution, the party and the new government have made many decisions in order to help the farmers, however, such decisions, particularly the technical and material assistance, have not been sufficient.

Babrak Karmal emphasized: The current year ought to be a year when we can improve providing the farmers with basic technical and material assistance. The technical and material distribution committees ought to be created alongside all the land and water reform groups. The party committees and the land and water reform commissions ought to improve their supervision over this process, the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform, the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources, and the Farmers' Cooperative Union also have to confront this task with more serious responsibility and complete all their plan duties with utmost consideration to quality. The objective should focus on providing the farmers with sufficient quantity of fertilizer, seeds, pest control services, and other services such as the mechanized stations and promulgation services. Similarly, they should be provided with the necessary facilities and assistance in selling their surplus products or purchasing their needed raw materials and farm equipment. Likewise, attention should be paid to providing sufficient water for irrigation and their pasture land.

Babrak Karmal also stated: The commission in charge of the implementation of land and water reform of the provinces ought to push a little harder and enhance their role as the principal operatives and resolvers of issues related to land and water reform. As far as possible they should act like a constant representative of the party and the revolutionary leadership and defend the interests of the farmers.

In conclusion, Babrak Karmal emphasized that the current year should be changed into one with great and fundamental triumphs for the execution of the land and water reform.

Thereafter, the session of the Central Committee of the PDPA and the Council of Ministers of the DRA came to an end with the approval of the resolutions conforming to the guidance of Babrak Karmal in order to continue the implementation of the land and water reform.

Also in this session Soltan Ali Keshtmand, member of the Political Bureau of the PDPA Central Committee and head of the Council of Ministers of the DRA and deputy of the Central Committee's commission and the Council of Ministers for the continuation of the implementation of land reform and Saleh Mohammad Ziri, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee were present.

Furthermore, during this session the reports from the Agricultural Branch of the Land Reform and the Cooperatives of the PDPA Central Committee, the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform, the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources and that of Geodesic and Cartography Department were also heard.

12719
CSO: 4665/122

AFGHANISTAN

AGRICULTURAL BANK PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS

Kabul ANIS in Dari 26 Jun 85 p 4

[Text] The agricultural development bank will provide three kinds of loans--short-term, medium-term and long-term--to the agricultural cooperatives, farmers and livestock raisers of the country as follows.

First, short-term loans: The repayment period for these loans is up to one year and they will be granted at an annual interest rate of 10 percent for the following purposes.

The purchase of such agricultural needs as chemical fertilizers, improved wheat seed, pesticides, animal vaccines, small agricultural tools, livestock fodder, and the loan for financing of agricultural products marketing.

Second, medium-term loans: The repayment period for medium-term loans is up to five years, at an annual interest rate of 8 percent, and they will be granted for the following purposes.

The purchase of such agricultural machinery as tractors and water pumps and related equipment, such as three-phase plows, cultivators, trailers, tillers, bedding equipment and other agricultural machinery, the normal wear of which would not be less than five years.

The purchase of animals for breeding.

Loans for the purpose of construction, improvement or repairs to provide small irrigation facilities and revitalize and cultivate land.

Third, long-term loans: The repayment period for such loans is more than five years, at an annual interest rate of 8 percent, for the purpose of creating orchards and vineyards and the construction and repair of agricultural farms.

The major goal of the agricultural bank in granting loans to farmers and agricultural cooperatives in the country is to raise

the level of agricultural and animal husbandry production and help strengthen the farmers and agricultural cooperatives financially in accordance with the lofty goals of our revolutionary party and government. These loans are granted directly or through the agricultural cooperatives and other means engaged in the development and process of agricultural production. Of course, the ultimate purpose is to help in achieving the goals of the revolutionary party and government for self-sufficiency in the agricultural production sector, especially for wheat, in our beloved country. Since the victory of the magnificent Saur revolution, the agricultural development bank, as the only agricultural credit institution in the country, along with other developmental and economic organizations of the country, has also tried in every step to develop and improve farming and animal husbandry through the granting of agricultural credit with the consideration and guidance of the party and government of the DRA and to expand its activities as much as possible in this area in an effective form, following the revolutionary and popular spirit.

The source added:

In addition to granting various loans to farmers, livestock raisers, fruit growers and agricultural cooperatives, the agricultural development bank sells various kinds of agricultural machinery, such as tractors and attachments; water pumps in different sizes and horsepower; and tractor, water pump, spare parts, tractor parts and deep well equipment, such as filters and casing, to farmers and agricultural cooperatives with no cash purchasing power. In order to repair and inspect agricultural machinery which is distributed among the agricultural cooperatives and farmers in the form of cash and loans, stationary and mobile bank workshops are active in the Provinces of Kabul, Paktia, Helmand, Qandahar, Farah, and Nimruz. And in other provinces, the mobile workshops of the bank are used for the repair and inspection of agricultural tractors. Hence, the main agencies of the agricultural bank are established in the Provinces of Kabul, Ghazni, Qandahar, Oruzgan, Helmand, Farah, Nimruz, Herat, Balkh, Samangan, Jowzjan, Nangarhar and Paktia and secondary agencies of the bank in the Provinces of Takhar, Laghman, Badghis, Bamian and the Districts of Khowst, Chahar Asiab, Dehsabz and Begram. Two other secondary agencies will be established in the course of this year in the Provinces of Konarha and Zabol after economic and technical studies.

10,000

CSO: 4665/111

AFGHANISTAN

FARMERS ASSISTED IN LAND IRRIGATION

Kabul ANIS in Dari 26 Jun 85 pp 1, 4

[Text] As a result of organizing the provincial council of the national fatherland front of Parwan and the cooperation of the people of the area, the cleaning and dredging of 40 km of the Kohnah Shahr River of Charikar, from the Ghorband River to the (Meskin) village was completed.

A source in the provincial council of the national fatherland front of Parwan told ANIS: In the digging and cleaning of the above-mentioned river, more than 10,000 members of the national fatherland front of Parwan and the inhabitants of the villages of (Chikal), (Meskin), Sufian-e-Laghmani, Khajah Sayyaran, Bala Gheyl, Qal'eh-ye Now, Bayan, Dughabad, Tatamdarrah-ye Sofla and Tatamdarrah-ye 'Olya as well as the employees of the office of water regulation participated, and in two months, the work was completed and the operation begun.

The source said: This river, which was cleaned and dug to a depth of 75 cm and a width of 4 meters, irrigates an area of 40,000 hectares of land, has solved the problems of the farmers and fruit growers of the above-mentioned villages and thereby about 1 million afghanis were saved.

The source said in conclusion: In a meeting which was held on the occasion of the operation of this river, a large number of the tribal leaders, clerics, party and government employees and a large number of the people of the above-mentioned villages participated. Several farmers representing the participants praised the humanitarian policy of the revolutionary party and government and declared their full support for the implementation of the objectives of the party and the resolutions of the historical group.

According to another report, on the occasion of the seventh anniversary of the magnificent Sawr revolution, with the organization of the employees of the district council of the national fatherland front of Bagram, vast volunteer work was put

into operation, with the participation of more than 3,500 members of the national fatherland front and honorable inhabitants of that district.

A responsible source told ANIS: This volunteer work took 18 days, during which the cleaning of the Mahigir River, at a length of 15 km and width of 3 meters, was accomplished, and thus, 875,000 afghanis were saved by the revolutionary government and the farmers of the area.

Also, through the initiative and organization of the provincial council of the national fatherland front of Herat, recently volunteer and collective work was begun in honor of the seventh anniversary of the magnificent Sawr revolution, with the participation of individual and collective members of the national fatherland front, workers collectives, government institutions, city councils, and district councils of Enjil and (Kashk).

In this collective volunteer work, the extension of a new river, at a length of 1,500 meters, in (Kashk) District, the closure of the Enjil River water dam, and other useful tasks were accomplished.

10,000
CSO: 4665/111

AFGHANISTAN

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION INCREASING

Kabul HEYWAD in Dari 26 Jun 85 p 2

[Text] In the 11th plenum of its central committee, the PDPA placed a fundamental duty before the people of our country and instructed:

"Our plenum today, that is, the 11th plenum of the PDPA, makes the reconstruction of the agricultural industries a fundamental duty for the upcoming years, so that in the course of 1362-1363 [21 March 1983-20 March 1985], we will achieve progress in the essential economic fields. The political bureau of the central committee of the PDPA invites all the members of the party, all the patriots and all the laborers of the country to spend their energy to gain this noble and revolutionary goal."

The hard-working people of our country, by responding positively to this order of their pioneer party, are not only bravely on the battle front against the barbarian counterrevolutionaries, but have consistently helped in the reconstruction of the agricultural industries of the country and have achieved the goal that the party placed before them, which was to increase production in agricultural industries to the level of before the revolution. Our hard-working and brave people have been able through perseverance and brave work to achieve this goal of the party and in 1362 [21 March 1983-20 March 1984] were able to bring agricultural industrial production back to the level of before the revolution.

The facts and figures in the area of agricultural production last year compared to 1357 [21 March 1978-20 March 1979] show the reality of the situation very well. In 1363 [21 March 1984-20 March 1985] compared to 1357 [21 March 1978-20 March 1979], there were 7,000 tons of wheat, a 1.7 percent increase in production. In the same year, 70,000 tons of wheat were purchased from agricultural and farmers' cooperatives by the government. This figure was 7,000 tons during the 1978-79 year.

The production of rice during the 1984-85 year reached 479,000 tons, which, compared to the 1978-79 year, increased by 51,000 tons, or 12 percent.

On the whole, the production of grains, wheat, barley, rice and corn increased by 2.8 percent; summer vegetables, including potatoes, 21.7 percent; and fruits, including grapes, by 12.9 percent compared to the 1978-79 year. In like manner, as a result of the decisions made concerning the first group of cotton farmers in the country and the commitment of the farmers to increase cotton production, in the 1984-85 year compared to the previous year, the production of cotton and beets increased by 1.4 times and its purchasing doubled. The growth in agricultural production prepared the grounds for the share of agricultural production to reach 59 percent of national production and 66.4 percent of the national revenues, with the foreign currency revenues from agricultural products making up 43 percent of all the revenues of the country. It must be admitted that greater gains still must be made in all areas, including agriculture and the reconstruction of farming. However, as Babrak Karmal, the secretary general of the central committee of the PDPA, said in his communique on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the PDPA: "These gains are praiseworthy, because they have been attained under difficult circumstances, and today, for this reason, we have the right to speak about them, since we have achieved them under severe and difficult conditions."

10,000

CSO: 4665/109

AFGHANISTAN

FAIR DISTRIBUTION OF WATER TO FARMERS REPORTED

Kabul HEYWAD in Dari 24 Jun 85 p 2

[Text] In accordance with the directives of Babrak Karmal, the secretary general of the central committee of the PDPA and chairman of the revolutionary council of the DRA, regarding land and water reform, clear decisions have been made and implemented. With the implementation of this plan, a total of 689 farmers' water consumption committees have been created in the villages. Hence, up to now, 960 water distributors have been appointed for the use of canal water. Also, irrigation agents have been active in 69 operational groups. As a result, during the period reported, they have distributed 24,500 deeds for water rights.

A source in the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources presented the above statements and said concerning the reconstruction and revitalization of the irrigation systems: In order to reconstruct the irrigation systems, revitalization offices are active in the northern zone (Mazar-e Sharif), the southwestern zone (Helmand), and the central zone (Konduz). The reconstruction of the dams and Joysher canal, Khodaydad Village, Hodkhayl Dam, 'Alawuddin River, and Amir Ghazi Barrage, the strengthening of a part of the exit canal of Qarghah in Kabul Province, the Shahi, Moshtaq, Balkh, and Siagard and Charbulak Rivers in Balkh Province and the Adamkhan Village dam, the repairing of the Qal-eh-ye Bast canal, the Sarkar and Shekari canal and the Kariz River in Helmand Province, the repairing of the Kamah canal, the construction of a pumping station in Nimruz Province, the repairing and strengthening of the dam of the Nosrat River in Farah, the construction and repairing of the dam of Khajah Khorram in Kapisa, the construction of a pumping station in 'Anabah in Panjshir, the reconstruction of the Zardkamar canal in Konduz, the reconstruction of Tarnab Paridgah in Faryab and the new construction in Lorghah Village in the Samangan Province should be mentioned. With the construction and essential repair of the above dams, constant water has been provided for the area irrigated by the above-mentioned canals. Thus, as a result of the resolutions of the Council of Ministers of the DRA, clear plans have been made and put at the disposal of the irrigation offices of the 12 cotton growing provinces. As a result of its implementation, a

total of 60 canals and dams, with the capacity of 10,056,125 cubic meters, have been cleaned, repaired and strengthened using local materials. Among them, 655,919 cubic meters have been cleaned through collective [works], 53,906 cubic meters of dams have been repaired and strengthened and 346,300 cubic meters of land affairs have been carried out [through various means].

In response to another question, the source said:

In order for most of the farmers in the country to benefit from the public plans of the country, irrigation offices have been expanded in the districts and subdistricts in order to easily identify and solve the problems of the farmers and, when necessary, provide help for them. Thus far, considering the existing resources, irrigation offices have been established and put into operation in 17 districts.

Concerning other activities of that ministry, the source said:

In order to eliminate the deficiencies on time, the training seminars of the directors of the irrigation offices and water resources of the provinces have been established in the capital. As a result, the central operation, including the experienced cadres from related departments, have been sent to the provinces of the country to solve the problems of the offices and to help the irrigation offices of the provinces. This year, such visits were made to 20 provinces.

The source said in conclusion:

In order to collect more information concerning the water resources of the lakes, canals and irrigation systems in the provinces, using 1:100,000-scale maps, the preparation of water cadastral maps has been undertaken.

In order to measure the water current of the water resources, measuring tools such as staff gauge and hydrometer bridges have been provided for the irrigation offices. With their installation at the dams and canals, the amount of water current in the canals can be determined and accordingly practical steps can be taken in setting water fees and distributing water fairly.

10,000

CSO: 4665/109

AFGHANISTAN

IRRIGATION SERVICE CONTINUES IN TAKHAR

Kabul DEHQAN in Dari 9 Jun 85 p 5

[Text] In providing for the needs of the people with the national economy in mind, the protection of resources and the reasonable and correct use of water resources, the fair distribution of water with consideration for the protection of the rights of water consumers plays a major role in the life of the people. Obviously, the human beings have a vital need for water. Hence, in accordance with the plans, the irrigation office of Takhar Province, in the light of the good and humanitarian directives and goals of the PDPA and the regulations set by the government of the DRA in connection with water, was able to accomplish the following tasks in 1363 [21 March 1984-20 March 1985].

1. Following the creation of farmers committees to study and solve problems in connection with water and other vital issues of farmers, two farmers committees were created.

2. [sic] In the first quarter of 1363 [21 March 1984-20 March 1985], 5 irrigation officials and 36 water officials were elected for the fair distribution of water and studying water problems. In connection with the cleaning of the canals of Shah Rawan, Gawmali, Nahr-e Zargar, Tash Gozar, Nahr-e Chaman, Nahr-e Safid and other small (secondary) canals, the irrigation officials and water officials have accomplished the following with the participation of more than 10,000 people.

A. The cleaning of 50,600 cubic meters of canals and the strengthening of 15,788 cubic meters of dams of (Zari'ah Hashr) through collective works.

3. In the first and second quarter of the year, 4 percent of the additional work was accomplished according to submitted plan relating to affairs concerning 13,053 cubic meters of collective land.

B. Construction work on the Shah Rawan River dam, which began on 14 November 1983 and was completed on 24 February 1985 at a

total cost of 168,863 afghanis from the government budget and is now in the service of the honorable people of the city of Taloqan.

With the construction of the above-mentioned dam, more than 900 hectares of land will be irrigated by the above-mentioned dam and tens of thousands of people will benefit from it. The above-mentioned expenditures include construction materials, such as stone, pebbles, threshers, cement, sledge hammers, boards, wooden frames, molding, and the cost of fuel, that is, gasoline and diesel fuel, as well as the wages of tradesmen and wage earners.

At Shkin Panchat, where a large number of the inhabitants of the villages of Banamak, Posht Wartah Boz, Mohajer, and Bagh Zakhirah faced many problems every year because of the lack of cotton carders and about 3,000 hectares of land was irrigated by the above-mentioned river, the above-mentioned carder was constructed out of the government budget. The construction began on 10 June 1984. And at a total cost of 88,140 afghanis for 606 cubic meters, the stone construction was repaired on 6 November 1984 and put in the service of the people.

The Maqbareh-ye Shohada bridge, at a total cost of 46,050 afghanis, was built and put into operation.

4. [sic] The irrigation office actively participated in leveling the air field with its equipment. It prepared 25,312 square meters of land, a volume of 400 cubic meters.

Due to the vital needs of the honorable people of Taloqan, the following public projects are included in the Takhar irrigation office plan for the period 21 March 1985-20 March 1986.

1. Construction of the irrigation office on five hectares of land.

2. Construction of dam No 2 of the Shah Rawan River, which will irrigate more than 10,000 hectares of land.

10,000

CSO: 4665/116

AFGHANISTAN

LAND DISTRIBUTION OF SAMANGAN FARMERS CONTINUES

Kabul DEHQAN in Dari 9 Jun 85

[Text] The democratic land and water reform continues in the provinces of the country. In accordance with the eighth decree of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, for the implementation of the second phase of the democratic land reform, operational groups with sufficient knowledge of the region, its customs and traditions have been appointed for every province and will participate in the task of the democratic water reform shoulder to shoulder with the farmers' councils of the villages and the committees of farmers who use water.

In Samangan Province in 1363 [21 March 1984-20 March 1985], two land and water reform operation groups implemented the operations of the democratic land reform jointly with the farmers' councils. As a result of the work of these operational groups, 648 land ownership deeds were distributed during the 1984-85 year and 5,662 hectares of prime land of 423 families were liquidated. As a result of the land liquidation, 141 hectares of prime land has been established in excess of the quota. During the past year, 245 families were given land free of charge and 10 farmers' councils were created in Samangan Province. In this province, 710 hectares of abandoned land was leased to farmers.

According to the work plan of 2 land reform operational groups, 955 hectares of land will be finalized for 625 families and 20 hectares of land will be distributed free of charge among 200 families in 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986]. In the same way, 1,000 land deeds will be distributed among the farmers.

10,000
CSO: 4665/116

AFGHANISTAN

COOPERATIVES ASSISTING FARMERS

Kabul DEHQAN in Dari 9 Jun 85 pp 5, 7

[Text] The agricultural cooperatives have been the manifestation of the voluntary formation and the unity of farmers, with the victory of the revolution, particularly after its new evolutionary phase, has been created and revitalized throughout the country. The agricultural cooperatives of (Shabdiani) of Ebrahim Khayl village, subdistrict of Barikowt area of Nangarhar Province was created in 1357 [21 March 1978-20 March 1979] with a capital of 85,000 afghanis and the membership of 370 informed farmers. Comrade 'Abdol, the chairman of the above-mentioned cooperative, said to the dispatched DEHQAN reporter in this regard:

With the creation of this cooperative, the farmers of the village of Ebrahim Khayl benefit from the agricultural assistance of our revolutionary government and have made many gains. In 1363 [21 March 1984-20 March 1985], 2,300 bags of urea fertilizer, 1,050 bags of phosphate fertilizer, and 5,500 afghanis worth of plant pesticides and animal medicines have been provided for the farmers who are members of the cooperative. Twenty-nine farmers who are combative members of the PDPA took up arms along with other cooperative members to defend the land and the gains of the revolution and, by destroying the counterrevolutionaries, have not only secured tranquillity for the village, but for the Barikowt area.

With the organizing of the farmers around the cooperative and with voluntary work, production has increased and 45 farmers have been organized in literacy courses.

In the village of Ebrahim Khayl, with the membership of 250 farmers, a consumers' cooperative and a consumers' store have been created to provide the primary needs of the farmers.

Comrade 'Abdol added: In addition to the cooperative, the trade union and the national fatherland front have also been

established in the village. The trade union has 450 farmers as members and 85 farmers are in the national fatherland front, doing revolutionary work to achieve the goals of the revolution.

In the Barikowt area, 1,163 farmers obtained land deeds in 1362 [21 March 1983-20 March 1984] and 120 farmers of Ebrahim Khayl village acquired land in the 1984-85 year as a result of the democratic land reforms. The work of the land reform operational group is also continuing this year in the Barikowt area.

10,000

CSO: 4665/116

AFGHANISTAN

PETROLEUM DISTRIBUTION STATION INAUGURATED

Kabul ANIS in Dari 8 Jul 85 p 2

/Text/ Yesterday, in a ceremony the Petroleum Transportation Services Station of the Ministry of Commerce became operational and was inaugurated by Brigadier General Mohammad Rafi, member of the Political Bureau of the PDPA Central Committee and the deputy prime minister of the DRA, and Victor Sergeyevich Anreyev, deputy minister of transport of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in the Chamtalah district.

Brigadier General Mohammad Rafi was accompanied by members of the PDPA Central Committee and the Council of Ministers of the DRA together with directors of various ministries and the deputy minister of transport of the USSR and his delegation members. They visited different sections of the Petroleum Transportation Services. Thereafter, they all attended a meeting which was also attended by all the workers and employees of the station. At this meeting, in a speech Brigadier General Mohammad Rafi talked about the friendly relations between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

Afterwards, as regards the construction of this project which began by the Construction Department of the Ministry of Public Works in 1360 /21 March 1981 - 20 March 1982/ and was completed in 1364 /21 March 1985 - 20 March 1986/, Mohammad Khan Jalalar, minister of commerce stated: The Petroleum Transportation Services Station of the General Department of Oil Products, which has been built on 114 hectares of land with over five million dollars credit from the Soviet Union and more than 955 million afghanis from the state budget of the DRA, is completed now and ready for operation.

Similarly, Victor Sergeyevich Andreyev, deputy minister of transport of the USSR discussed the economic and technical cooperation of the Soviet Union in the development of the economic sector of Afghanistan.

The enemies of the revolution of revolutionary Afghanistan are trying to lead the sincere and brotherly cooperation between the two countries into chaos and difficulties, however little do they know that these skirmishes will have no effect on the unsparing and unrestrained brotherliness and friendship between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union and in the long run they themselves will be the miserable losers.

According to another report, all the pertinent documents pertaining to delivery and receipt of the Petroleum Transportation Services Station relating to 300 gas tanker trucks between the Ministries of Public Works and Commerce were signed.

The abovementioned documents were signed by Nazar Mohammad, minister of public works; Mohammad Khan Jalalar, minister of commerce and the economic attache of the Soviet Union's Embassy in Kabul.

12719

CSO: 4665/123

AFGHANISTAN

BRIEFS

LAND DISTRIBUTION--In the continuation of the implementation of the second phase of the democratic land reform, official land ownership deeds for 518 plots of land have been distributed during the past 3 months of this year for the farmers who have little or no land in the districts of Garashk and Nad-e 'Ali and the capital of Helmand Province. A source in the office of agriculture and land reform of that province said: During the same period, 7,470 acres of the prime land of 510 landowners have been purged and 30 farmers' councils have been established in the various villages of the above-mentioned districts. The source added: The farmers of the above-mentioned districts have become landowners as a result of the Sawr revolution. During the past 3 months, 130 tons of chemical fertilizers have also been distributed among them. [Text] [Kabul HEYWAD in Dari 24 Jun 85 p 1] 10,000

LAND DEEDS DISTRIBUTION--During the first quarter of this year, 1,259 land deeds were distributed among the farmers with little or no land of Konduz Province. A source in the office of agriculture and land reform of Konduz Province said: During this period, 19,395 hectares of land of the landowners of that province were purged and 599 hectares of additional land has been distributed among their owners. Also, a total amount of more than 9,900,000 afghanis, 1,221 tons of chemical fertilizers and 35 tons of improved wheat seeds have been distributed among farmers who have acquired land deeds. [Text] [Kabul ANIS in Dari 26 Jun 85 p 1] 10,000

CSO: 4665/111

IRAN

IRP ORGAN LAUDS IRAQI POWS FIGHTING AGAINST SADDAM REGIME

Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 28 Jul 85 p 2

[Text] In the last few days the fronts in the battle of the Truth against the Vain were again witness to lovely and fascinating scenes of battle between a divine and a satanic force. They are two forces from the same country and nation, but one of them is in the shadow of the banner of unity and the Word of God, with faith full of divine love, which had come to the field to do battle with Saddam's army after liberation from the clutches of the Ba'thist fiends, and advanced from trench to trench to liberate their Islamic land. On the other side of the line, however, there were deluded people who had been brought to the fronts and were awaiting their own death and capture without any objective or motivation. They had been brought to the front against their wishes by the Ba'thists under duress. Those in this force which was able serve Islam were so broken and defeated that despite all the lying propaganda from the Ba'thist regime of Iraq concerning the ill-treatment of Iraqi prisoners by the combatants of Islam, as soon as they were faced with the forces of Islam they raised their hands in surrender. They see freedom in their captivity, and they know that the real meaning of surrender to the combatants of Islam is flight from the shackles of captivity which had been put on them by the Ba'thists.

Although the participation of Iraqi combatants at the war fronts is nothing new, and they have been at the fronts of Iraq's imposed war on Iran before and have fought against the Ba'thist aggressors, this time they had an organized presence. In so doing they demonstrate that they are preparing for the liberation of the Islamic land of Iraq and the formation of an Islamic government in that country. On the other side of the border, Iraqi Muslims are now awaiting the arrival of their brother compatriots. This sacred movement will put an end to the period of captivity for the enslaved people in Iraq, who are being harassed by Ba'thist oppression. Even the Iraqi forces who were deluded or forced to the fronts now see themselves allied with the bearers of the message of liberation and their brother compatriots in the trenches in the army of unity, and have girded themselves for their liberation and for the annihilation of the decadent Ba'thist regime.

In this regard, with a look at chaotic conditions within Iraq, many of the issues may easily be seen. The police state in this country has imposed such a policy of suffocation and dictatorship on the people that it has closed the tiniest openings. In the same connection, recently even the international organizations which in a sense support the Iraqi regime have expressed concern over the atmosphere prevailing in Iraq.

The Ba'thists have mercy on no one. Whoever makes the slightest opposition to the Ba'thist regime is immediately imprisoned or executed at the hands of the Takrit clan's fiends.

In the midst of all this, what is totally new is that today, step-by-step, the children of Iraq are cleansing their land of the Ba'thist filth. The Muslim and revolutionary combatants of Iraq are the representatives of their nation. They have rushed forward to establish an Islamic government in Iraq with the help of the combatants of Islam in order to experience the sweet taste of victory through the endurance of hardship. Victory is sweet when it has been bought with effort and the sacrifice of life, and this very thing will make a person defend the victory he has obtained with all his power. At this sensitive point in the history of the Iraqi nation's struggle, the Supreme Revolutionary Council of Iraq has made a calculated move and given great beauty to the organization of its combatant forces and connected them to the boundless ocean of the combatants of Islam. This new phenomenon has raised the hopes of the two Muslim nations of Iran and Iraq for a final victory and has planted the seeds of cooperation for the continuation of the work. This phenomenon will be more evident when, after the defeat of the Ba'thists and the establishment of an Islamic government in Iraq, the two believing Islamic forces of Iran and Iraq go into battle shoulder-to-shoulder to destroy the Zionists, the occupiers of Jerusalem and murderers of thousands of Muslims. That will be the day when the Muslims perceive the depth of the crimes the Ba'thists have committed.

The successful experience of recent operations has shown that the direct participation of Muslim and revolutionary forces of Iraq in battle can bring the fall of the Ba'thists closer. We saw in Operation Jerusalem IV that in the joint assault by the combatants of Islam and the Muslim Mojahedin of Iraq which was carried out with the battle cry "Mohammad (Peace Be Upon Him) is the Prophet of God" the greatest results were achieved with the least losses. One of the results was the taking of the strategic lake Om al-Na'aj. During this operation the combative ability of the Iraqi Muslim Mojahedin was demonstrated, and expectations are that with more extensive participation from the Iraqi combative forces other more desirable results will be obtained. Moreover, they themselves will see firsthand the sacrifices of the combatants of Islam which are being made to cleanse the world of Islam from the filthy presence of the Ba'thists. This is a lesson that will be taught only at the battle fronts of the Truth against the Vain.

9310

CSO: 4640/691

IRAN

REGIME'S 'SEVEN-YEAR EFFORTS FOR ECONOMIC DESTRUCTION' CITED

London KEYHAN in Persian 8 Aug 85 p 8

[Article by Mohammad Reza Torabi]

[London KEYHAN weekly in Persian; founder and publisher Dr Mesbahzadeh]

[Text] Economic bankruptcy has caused many producing units to be shut down and left hundreds of workers, technicians and engineers jobless.

The administrators of the Islamic regime are competing with each other in plundering Iran's national wealth.

Middlemen from foreign countries have put Iran's oil up for auction on the world market.

The decrease of deposits in relation to the volume of money in circulation has shattered the Iranian banking system.

The Islamic Republic by obtaining high interest, short-term loans from German banks acquires needed foreign currency for the purchase of arms and food.

The Islamic Republic of Iran experienced the worst period of its seven year existence the past year; this time the distressed economy affected the regime more than any other factor. The obvious decline of oil income, the omission of export factors in trade exchange balance sheets, the extraordinary and surprising budget deficit, excessive inflation, increase of unemployment, decline of gross national product, decline in industrial production and negative growth in agricultural production has resulted in the constant and increasing dependency on foreign imports along with the complete shutdown of all industrial projects whether half-finished or new, and the cancellation of all development projects; these are among the government revenue operations for this year. The government anti-inflation program at present has only resulted in intensifying the economic crisis and inflation has maintained its level. Inflation in this economic crisis has made the people face gloomy and dark days ahead.

The forecast of the tarnished government's financial situation, opposed to extreme pressure against the people, has resulted in the issuance of a

circular by the prime minister of the Islamic Republic cancelling all the development projects of the country. In order to meet the foreign currency shortage and obtain financial resources for imports, the government has resorted to foreign sources. To execute this decision, the regime of the Islamic Republic has for the first time embarked on a new factor called "usance" in its foreign trade relations and has taken steps to acquire loans from the Federal Republic of Germany. According to this decision, the German banks will pay Iran's import expenses and after an agreed upon grace period, they will retrieve this loan with interest from government of the Islamic Republic. The Islamic government has adopted this method for its barter transactions and a part of its import loans are paid by selling cheap oil to German companies such as Krupp. These companies, together with banks, by auctioning Iran's oil, are actually providing the expenses for German imports and some of the European countries including Spain. The success of the Islamic government in this method of plundering the national wealth in order to obtain credit for purchasing European goods has encouraged them to repeat the same system of transactions with Japan. The concept of these deceitful tricks contradicts the views of government officials who claim that Iran does not have any foreign debts. In practice, short-term loans with high interest is the worst kind of loan especially when the payments of these loans are made by middlemen from foreign countries auctioning Iran's oil. As a result of this unhealthy scheme purchased goods will cost much more

Coinciding with these plots to obtain scarce foreign currency, in order to increase its rial income and meet a portion of its budget deficit which is over 50 percent, the Islamic government has taken notice of the intensified financial pressure on the people. Due to the constant decline in the purchasing power of the people and the decrease in the level of living conditions and the income of the self-employed, the government has not succeeded in this regard. The decline of oil prices has aggravated the condition and has increased government anxiety more than ever. It has caused the Islamic Republic, which during the recent year has undertaken to break the committed ceiling of oil production in OPEC and granted reductions for barter transactions and was the initiator of the fight against the unofficial price rate of crude oil, to face the regular decline of foreign currency income. During the recent year, budget dependency on oil export income reached over 95 percent. In the event of a fight over the official oil price or the dissolution of OPEC, oil prices will decrease to 20 dollars per barrel. The Islamic Republic will eventually lose one third of its oil income compared to the previous year. At present, Iran's oil is sold for less than 24 dollars per barrel, whereas the official OPEC price is around 28 dollars per barrel. Naturally, any decrease in these prices will impose a relative decline on Iran's income. As a result, if today the government of the Islamic regime due to its strained financial condition postpones its commitments to domestic contractors and banks for another year, it will be compelled to postpone its foreign currency payment commitments for the loans to purchase credit. At the end, the government will be obliged to apply for official loans for the payment of its previous loans and credit installments for its previous purchases in the hopes of a flourishing of the oil market in order to pay these loans! If today the Iran National Industry assembler of Peykan cars is closed for three months due to a payment delay to the

Talbot company and delays in signing a new contract and obtaining parts, other industries will be shut down for the same reasons. It is unfortunate that none of the foreign currency credits received by the Islamic government have been used for the purchase of investment goods for expanding technology, industrial growth, agricultural flourishing, self sufficiency and the increase of economic power, like other borrowing nations such as Argentina, Brazil or Israel, which by preservation of their investment, repay their loans; these loans are used exclusively for the purchase of food and some raw materials for domestic sectors and converted industries. In order to conceal the standstill domestic production, the import of other consumption needs is entrusted upon the people so without getting any official foreign currency and definitely with no limitation on the volume and kind of goods, open borders are used to pour goods on the consumer market.

The sources for providing foreign currency for these imported goods are national wealth and scattered public and private wealth, which through auction and plunder accumulate in the pockets of foreign producers and exporters and expediate the calculated movement towards national poverty. Another portion of this foreign currency is provided by smuggling rugs, food, antiques, indirect tourist income, salaries of Iranians residing abroad, foreign exchange for students, auction of home furnishings, payment commitments to agencies of government industries, sale of government foreign currency by government trusted agents in the banking system, border transactions and other sources which eventually will expediate national bankruptcy. The future of Iran's national economy with the demolishing activities and anti-national policies of the present ruling regime in Iran is too gloomy in order to hope to restore it in a short period, and definitely in coming months and at the latest next year the present conditions and the chronic stagnacy will exist and the sluggish market will continue. The price of real estate, property, luxury goods and non-consumable goods will continue to decline. The stagnacy of the rug market, apart from smuggling the very best and scarce rugs, will continue.

Income of guild units will continue to decline and with the increase in unemployment offers to sell these units will increase. The rate of sales compared to the purchasing power of the people will decline further. In spite of the sluggish money rotation and continuous anti-inflation activities, the purchasing power of regular salaried employees will not increase. Government financial pressure will be imposed more than ever on the people in the current and future years especially on the self-employed. Government debts to the banking system will continue to increase. The government by printing new money will continuously decrease the purchasing power of rials in the hopes of covering a part of rial expenses in the short run. The workers and employees of the private sector will face the danger of unemployment due to the shut down of these units. A new section of the skilled, useful, productive and specialized services force will take false jobs like peddlers and idlers and join the cities economic parasites. For example, in the previous week, two mechanic technicians of a road construction firm in Tehran (which has been closed due to a lack of contracts and unemployment) found new jobs, one by purchasing a used van on installment and the other by opening a gum and cigarette stand and the notice of the sale of the

machinery of this firm to the highest bidder was published this week like many similar corporations. This is the destiny of over 1000 employees of contractor firms and hundreds of consultants from engineering firms who are responsible for society's reconstruction and for transmitting productive values and services. After the issuance of the official order of the prime minister in regard to the cancellation of all development projects, thousands of employees of these firms will be forced to lose their jobs. Not to mention how difficult it is to start these wheels and mobilize these related skills again. Certainly at the same time, special goods are constantly imported by government gangsters and some of the profitable projects belonging to various regime leaders will be pursued. Among them are the Tehran Metro project belonging to Hashemi Rafsanjani, the Azarbayejan-Turkey pipeline project belonging to Hoseyn Musavi the prime minister, the Sarakhs-Azarbaijan gas pipeline construction project which Ali Khamene'i has in his possession, and the Iran oil refinery that Qarazi the minister of petroleum has at his disposal. The responsible authorities and members of the government mafia of the Islamic Republic regime in addition to these projects are each involved in several profitable and income generating branches of trade, acting as middlemen. To count them all is beyond the scope of this article. They include the pistachio nut export monopoly controlled by Rafsanjani, the establishment of wholesale market and the hoarding of hundreds of thousands of tons of fruits by the minister of Revolutionary Guard Mohsen Rafi-Dust. Due to these circumstances, anticipating the slightest relief in government affairs is impossible and the possibility of a delay in the payment of the salaries of government employees is imaginable in coming months. The issuance order of the postponement of the development projects is apparently the continuation of lagging behind and inwardly intensifies the speed of economic fall and national bankruptcy and will proceed until the coming year.

All the decisions and activities of this government in confronting the mentioned difficulties are designed in practice only to maintain a delayed war for the continuation of ruling and not a reformatory plan for reparation. The existence of such conditions in free countries always leads to a change of government and in the socialist countries, at a minimum, leads to the grounds for extensive change of executive authorities and the party's leaders. In Islamic Iran, the ruling regime is facing the mentioned gridlock and does not have any chance of escaping it and the circumstances for continuing its rule becomes more difficult everyday. If today, hundreds of unemployed contractors sell their machinery at two thirds and even half the price of the previous year and if the manufacturers of home equipment, water coolers, gas stoves, and heaters were selling their products last year or years before in the black market, today they offer their products at less than half the official rate and they become frustrated in search of customers for their half finished products. Today at an interval of less than 7 months, the price of residential units and real estate has declined 40 percent and construction growth is zero and is limited to the renovation of scattered small and old demolished units. As a result, over 1.5 million people involved in the construction industry have joined the army of unemployed. The banking system, due to sluggish credit and the lack of using it and the decline of the amount of deposits in comparison to money in circulation, is on the verge of bankruptcy. Hundreds of thousands of employees of the private

sector are counting the days, expecting to lose their jobs. This is nothing yet and with the appearance of daylight, the darkness of the wretched government will appear more than ever, and at present it is yet in its vanguard before us. In this disturbed period of time, the different levels of our society are very well aware that during the ruling period of this regime, no steps will be taken with good intentions for the salvation and liberation of this nation.

In any case this is the destiny of the Islamic Republic and due to its economic bankruptcy and related ailments, if special divine aid does not come to its help, it will become rotten from the inside and like a rotten apple will collapse.

9815

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IRAN

COUNTRY'S EXPORT REACHES 420 MILLION DOLLARS

Tehran BURS in Persian 9 Jul 85 p 2

[Text] Unofficial figures show that the value of our country's exports in the first quarter of last year [21 Mar - 21 May 1984] was around 420 million dollars.

The ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY reports that that export officials from the country's southern provinces, the governor-general of Sistan va Baluchestan, aides to the governor-general, the general manager of commerce, the president of the province bank, the supervisor of the Sistan va Baluchestan Urban Cooperative Organization, representatives of the governors-general's and urban cooperative offices and the offices of commerce of the provinces of Khorasan, Hormozegan, West Azarbaijan, and Bushehr met at the Sistan governor-general's office. At this meeting, the deputy for exports announced the matter above and discussed economic progress in the area of non-petroleum exports since the triumph of the Islamic revolution. He said: In the year 1362 [21 Mar 1983 - 20 March 1984], with a 29 percent increase in non-petroleum exports over the year 1361 [21 Mar 1982 - 20 March 1983], the country's exports began to grow for the first time. In the year 1363 [21 Mar 1984 - 20 March 1985], work by the Iran Center for Export Expansion continued, and the country's export expansion policy was coordinated for the purpose of increasing non-petroleum exports. In Aban of 1363 [23 Oct - 21 Nov 1984] with the issuance of Resolution 72212, provisions were made so that export revenues could be used in a suitable manner and a great change was made for exports.

Likewise, in the first two months of 1364 [21 March - 21 May 1985] the country's exports grew 265 percent in terms of value and 49 percent in terms of value compared to the same period the previous year.

The Sistan va Baluchestan Urban Cooperative Organization supervisor then said: One of the most crippling difficulties in these cooperatives is that the prices of imported goods are at 1352 [21 Mar 1973 - 20 Mar 1974] levels, and it is hoped that special steps will be taken by the appropriate officials to resolve this problem.

He also called upon customs to shorten the period in which imports would be permitted.

During the meeting the governor-general of Sistan va Baluchestan also spoke. He said: The best business is business between one nation and another. If the people receive the necessary business education and participate, it can be said that the most successful and desirable business and exporting will take place.

IRAN

TRADE DELEGATION'S VISIT TO VARIOUS COUNTRIES DETAILED

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 4 Aug 85 p 4

[Text] Economic Service—Engineer 'Alinaqi Khamushi, chief of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Mines and Industry, gave an international press conference yesterday. He discussed the results of his and the Iranian commercial delegation's recent trip to the Soviet Union, Hungary, China, and Japan, and answered questions from correspondents.

At the beginning of the conference, Engineer Khamushi discussed the Imam's recent guidance concerning the expansion of economic and commercial relations with other countries. He said:

Two years ago, with the Iran Chamber of Commerce's expansion of relations and cooperation with chambers of commerce in other countries, we were invited to the Soviet Union and Hungary, but existing problems prevented those trips. His Holiness the Imam, in meetings with the Islamic Republic of Iran's world ambassadors and chargés d'affaires, drew a clear line in this area, on the basis of which we will have no restrictions on expanding our country's commercial relations with the world. I will even say that we can establish and expand these relations with any country with which we are not at war, with the exception of usurper Israel and South Africa. It is even possible that we might reconsider our relations with America in the near future, if this country reconsiders its relations with Muslims and the countries of the region.

On this basis, letters were sent to chambers of commerce in various countries, and we gave a positive answer to postponed invitations to visit such countries as the Soviet Union and Hungary, in coordination with the president, the speaker of the Majlis, the prime minister, and the foreign minister.

Expanded Cooperation between Iran and the Soviet Union

Concerning the results of the trip by the delegation from the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Mines and Industry to the Soviet Union, Engineer Khamushi said:

The eight-person delegation consisted of the board of directors of the chamber of commerce and the union of dried fruit and tricot export, of which I was supervisor.

Meetings between Soviet officials and the Iranian delegation were warm, sincere, and completely unexpected.

The Soviets knew they were talking with representatives of a national chamber with the necessary military, political, and economic authority. In our negotiations, we enjoyed a position of strength.

The talks revolved mainly around economic, commercial, and industrial affairs, and in order to make a beginning in this matter, the Soviets suggested reviving the joint chamber of commerce between the two countries.

The Iran-Soviet Union Chamber of Commerce was established in 1975 and its elections were held, but with the revolution in Iran, it fell into silence and stagnation. We answered in the affirmative to this request. After the necessary formalities, we asked the Soviets to send representatives to Iran so that a new board of directors could be elected for the joint chamber.

The chief of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Mines and Industry added:

In answer to our complaint about some of the Soviet economic and political positions, high Soviet officials announced that the departure of Soviet experts was temporary and connected with the bombing of cities. These experts will return to their posts at the first opportunity. Concerning the postponement of a trip by the Iranian commerce delegation to the Soviet Union to make preparations for the formation of the joint chamber of commerce, Soviet officials explained that there would not be sufficient accommodations for the Iranian political and economic delegation because of the International Youth Seminar in Moscow. Accordingly, we asked that this delegation postpone its trip.

Khamushi added:

We found the Soviet market to be a vast and boundless one, and it is perhaps the rarest of countries in that its market is empty of Western products. The expansion of commercial relations based on trading goods for goods can make it possible for us to send our industrial products to this market and to import in turn necessary and semi-necessary goods such as steel products, wood, paper, fertilizers, chemical products, acids, sulfates, sugar, and in short, goods which are the equal in quality and price with their Western counterparts. It is especially important that the importation of goods from this country will reduce domestic freight costs for the central and northern areas.

Under such circumstances, in the first year we will be able to export about 500 million dollars in non-petroleum industrial goods to the Soviet Union, and in the course of the five-year Soviet development plan, we will be able to increase that figure to one billion dollars. In addition, the Soviet Union can be a good partner for our national and industrial projects. We will thus be able to have more extensive relations with this country. The primary difficulty we have with commercial relations between the two countries is that the Soviet economy is planned in five-year increments. Therefore, for example if it is not clear this year what goods will be available from Iran in the course of the five-year plan, we cannot invite them to come buy certain goods in the middle of the period.

Extensive cooperation with the Soviet Union is also possible in connection with petroleum and petroleum products, as well as projects for building dams, atomic power stations, urban light rail transportation, railroads, and maritime and aircraft construction.

Another important point is that they claimed that they still have basic differences and even bitter disputes with Japan dating from World War II over such things as islands, but these quarrels and differences have never darkened economic cooperation between the two countries.

In other words, despite the ideological differences between the Iran and the Soviet Union, they believe that cool commercial and industrial relations cannot be justified.

Our Country's Economic Difficulties

Engineer Khamushi analyzed the existing problems in our country's economy. He said:

Our primary problem in the area of production is the insufficient availability of raw materials. Therefore, if we make commercial policies in such a way that we free a billion dollars of our currency by trading goods for goods with the Soviet Union, we can use that currency to procure raw materials for our factories, and we will also increase the production and exportation of our products.

Policy-making in this area must be coordinated smoothly between all organizations, in other words so that the private sector will know what policies are and act accordingly.

In general, what hurts us in our foreign economic and commercial policy is the lack of the necessary coordination.

Iran's Commercial Relations with Hungary

Engineer Khamushi then discussed the results of the Iranian commercial delegation's trip to Hungary. He said:

We visited a cooperative in Hungary with 2,000 members, which occupies 10,000 hectares of land.

This cooperative has a gross income of 40 million dollars per year and produces seven tons of grain per hectare. The cooperative practices advanced animal husbandry, and they have recently produced artificial rice using wheat and eggs, with much greater nutritional value than ordinary rice.

Hungarian officials claim that this cooperative and its method of operating can serve as a model for many socialist countries.

After discussing the characteristics of the Hungarian economy, Engineer Khamushi said:

Hungary can be a good partner for us in some industries. In this country we had detailed talks with about 75 industrial managers and commercial officials, and we talked with a deputy treasury minister. We also visited the Tengseram Factory (light bulb production), a textile factory, and an aluminum plant. Before this, we concluded a 12-million dollar clothing agreement with the Hungarians, and they promised to extend credit in this area as soon as possible. In general, they displayed a desire to purchase tricot from Iran.

Results of the Trip to China and Japan

Concerning his trip to China and Japan, Engineer Khamushi said:

On this trip we were traveling with Mr Hashemi Rafsanjani, and with the talks that he held and the proposals he made, there was not much left for us to do directly.

We also met with economic and commercial officials in Japan, and we talked with the board of directors of the Japan Chamber of Commerce.

At the end of Mr Hashemi Rafsanjani's trip to Japan and China, a committee was formed at the prime minister's office headed by Mr Aqazadeh to follow up on the results of this trip. We hope to meet with this committee, to clarify the role and share of the private sector in cooperating with the government in this area.

9310

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IRAN

MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES POLICIES, PROJECTS DETAILED

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 27 Jul 85 p 21

[Text] During a one-day meeting of directors of units under the Iran Expansion and Reconstruction Organization the policies and programs of the Ministry of Heavy Industries were explained by Engineer Behzad Nabavi, Minister of Heavy Industries.

The Ministry of Heavy Industries' office of public relations reports that at this meeting the Minister of Heavy Industries discussed increased production over the past two years. He said: With the policy that the Ministry of Heavy Industries adopted in 1362 [21 Mar 1983 - 20 Mar 1984], factory production increased until the end of the year 1363 [20 March 1985]. Production units under the Ministry of Heavy Industries have been able to increase production 11 percent in 1363 [21 Mar 1984 - 20 Mar 1985] despite the currency difficulties that appeared at the end of 1362 [20 March 1984], and this was at a time when there was a 60 percent increase in production in 1362 over 1361 [21 Mar 1982 - 20 Mar 1983].

Continuing his remarks, Engineer Nabavi added: Unfortunately, production increases stopped in 1364 [21 Mar 1983 - 20 Mar 1984], so that the average monthly production of all companies under the ministry in the first three months of the current year [21 Mar - 21 Jun 1985] compared to the average monthly production in the previous year was 24 percent less, and if this trend continues the Iran Expansion and Reconstruction Organization will have lost 800 million tomans by the end of the year. He added: Since the beginning of the movement for increased production in the foundries, the self-interested and the ignorant have risen in opposition to this sacred crusade and have ridiculed it from the outset, calling it an impossibility. When in practice they were forced to accept reality, they sang a different tune and mercilessly attacked the country's economic growth and increased production, using various pretexts to equate production with assembly, to say that it is low quality, and to discredit it in other ways.

The Minister of Heavy Industries noted: Overall economic indicators have shown that the greatest percentage of increases in gross national production in the years 1362 [21 Mar 1983 - 20 Mar 1984] and 1363 [21 Mar 1984 - 20 Mar 1985] were due to the efforts of the workers and you crusading directors on the industrial front, and this growth not only had a determining effect on economic prosperity, getting underway with development activities, and greatly decreasing the rate of inflation, it helped greatly with the creation of resources for growth, expanded reconstruction, increased efficiency and new industrial investment and it improved the lot of the workers.

Continuing his remarks, Nabavi warned those who have attacked production and who wish to stop it. He said: If the Majlis prohibits the importation and consumption of any product, we are prepared to stop its domestic production immediately, but under no circumstances will we sacrifice domestic industries, even if they only assemble goods, to the importation of ready-made goods. We are not prepared to close factories, lay off workers and close our eyes to the increases in domestic production and to import goods comparable to the products from these same factories from abroad.

If the production of a product is bad and destructive, first its consumption must be prohibited. Its domestic production must not be stopped in favor of foreign imports. He noted: All of these things are being said to keep you from achieving self-sufficiency and economic growth, and so that you will be dependent on imports as before.

The Minister of Heavy Industries addressed himself to the directors of the industries under the ministry. He said: In view of what has been said, your responsibility is even greater. Although currency problems are the main reasons for recent malfunctions and a detriment to production, just as in the past, and even more so, you must continue cooperating with committed workers and employees in your struggles in the trenches of production. You must overcome the many existing problems. Do not allow the glorious banner of increased production to fall from the powerful hands of yourselves and our committed and revolutionary workers, to the delight of the enemies of Islam and the revolution.

He added: Just as in the past, the Ministry of Heavy Industries will strive with all its resources to minimize the pressure exerted by the nation's crises on the factories, and it will spare nothing in any kind of service and cooperation in this sacred effort.

After the Minister of Heavy Industries' speech, economic and commercial planning deputies of the Ministry of Heavy Industries discussed the plans, difficulties, and current activities in their offices and answered questions from those present.

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